GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children

MAY 2001
RS.6/-

COOL OFF THE HEALTHY WAY!

Rasna FREE BHOOT Offer!

Thousands of packs have a Chota Bhoot and a letter.

Mail the letter back and get a Glowing Bada Bhoot, Free!

Offer applicable on 32 glass Rasna Soft Drink Concentrate pack. Offer applicable till stocks last. Packs also available without this offer.

For more Pranky fun visit: www.gogokid.com

Mudra:RASNA:367/GOK/Eng

Funtastic yellow stations - *Indoor game* - **40**

Harbhajan - **16**, V.V.S. Laxman - **65** : Posters

Soxy's mouth began to water and his hunger increased. He decided to cheat Rabby and gobble him up - **22**

Birbal attached four wooden boards, to a bullock cart, so that the cart now looked like a huge box, with wheels - **62**

The case of the Missing Orphans - *New Serial* - **12**

GOKULAM

May '01 Vol. XIII, No.11

IN GOKULAM THIS MONTH

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
—William Canton

DID YOU KNOW?

* Leopards hunt deer, wild boar, porcupine and even crabs!

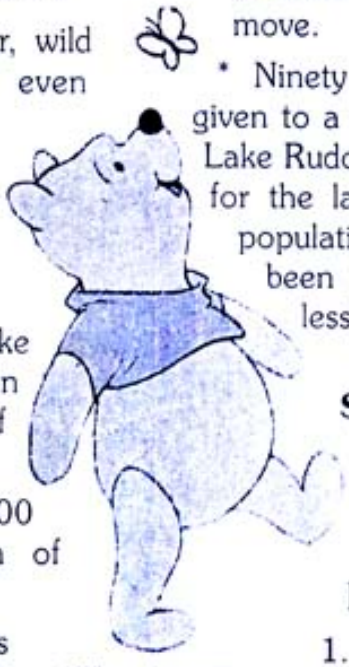
* Animals talk to each other by signals and scent besides vocally!

* A million insects like spiders, mites etc., can survive in an acre of grass!

* A bee travels 75,000 km to make 500 gm of honey!

* Common salt acts as an antiseptic and kills bacteria in the mouth and throat. Hence doctors advise us to gargle with salt water.

- Ladika Dave, 14 yrs., St. Aloysius H.S., Nallasopara, Thane Dt.



* Winne the pooh

FACT FILE

* No solar eclipse can last longer than seven minutes and 58 seconds, because of the speed at which the heavenly bodies move.

* Ninety nine is the name given to a tribe on an island in Lake Rudolf in Kenya, because for the last twenty years the population of this tribe has been 99 - no more, no less!

- Nithya Vijay, Std. VIII C, K.V., Kanjikode

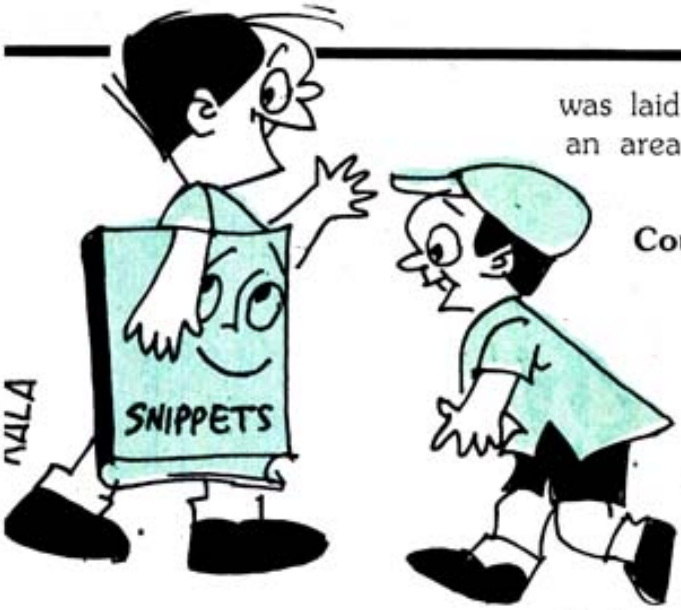
99, NOT OUT

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!

1. The human body contains 12,000 million nerve cells linked by more than 10 million connections.

2. Nerve impulses travel through the human body at speeds of between 18-20 meters per second.

3. Electrical activity in the brain is enough to power a 10



watt light bulb.

4. The highly folded surface of the cerebrum in the human brain would cover an area of five pages of Gokulam if flattened out.

5. Human development from a fertilized ovum to a newborn involves only 34 repeated cell divisions.

6. Water makes more than 60% of an adult body - enough to fill five buckets (38 litres)

7. Amount of carbon in the human body is enough to fill about 9000 lead pencils.

8. Body produces RBCs at a rate of 9000 million per hour.

9. On a human body there are about 1 - 2 million hairs.

10. There are around 96,500 km of blood vessels in the human body which can go around the earth, more than twice!

11. If an adult person's skin was laid out flat it would cover an area of 22 Sq. feet.

- Sheraz Khaki

Courtesy : Kisan world

VEGETABLE PYRAMID

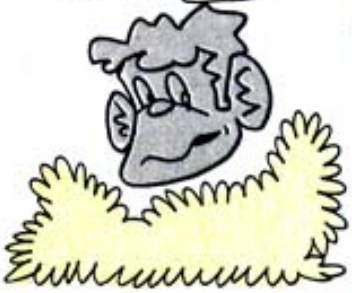
A vegetable pyramid, made by prisoners of Sitapur District Jail was put up at an exhibition in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The structure was made of over one thousand vegetables and won the first prize on 25th February, 2001.

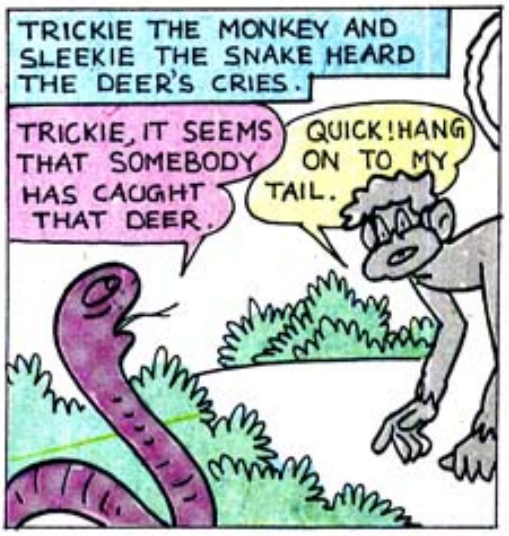
THE POOH WINS!

Britain's cuddly, honey guzzling cartoon character "Winnie the Pooh" has made history. The royalty fetched by this character has touched £ 240 millions! Besides, the sale of the rights to this loveable bear to Walt Disney studios has netted £ 60 million!

- Suresh K. Anjum

THE CLEVER MONKEY





JUST CHANTING THE MANTRA IS NOT ENOUGH. YOU MUST TIE A VINE ON YOUR TAIL.

WHILE CHANTING THE MANTRA, THE VINE'LL BECOME PART OF YOUR TAIL. SEE HOW LONG MY TAIL HAS BECOME.

WOW!

TEACH US THE MANTRA.

SOON BROWNIE AND CROOKIE TIED A VINE TO THEIR TAILS AND WITH CLOSED EYES BEGAN CHANTING THE MANTRA.

HA.. HA.. NOW'S THE FUN.

HE TOOK THE VINE OVER A BRANCH AND...

PACHY, PULL THIS VINE IF YOU WANT SOME FRUITS TO FALL DOWN.

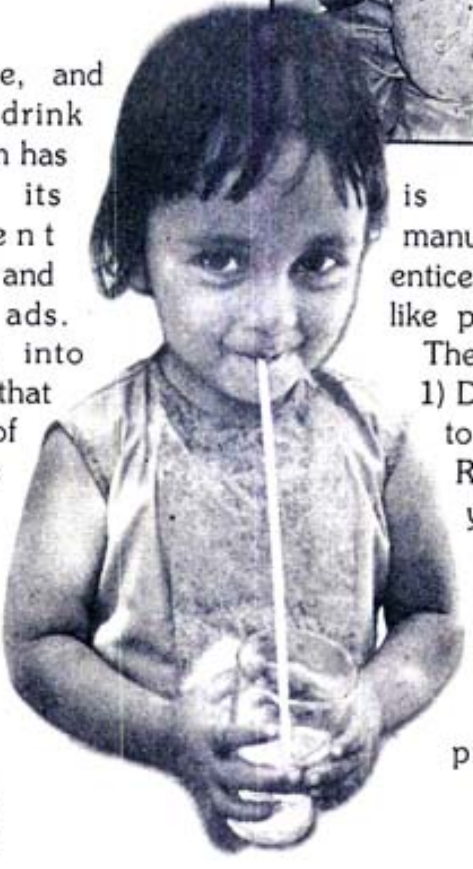
WHEN THE ELEPHANT PULLED THE VINE...

YEOW!

HELP!

THE CROOKED DUO LEARNT A LESSON AND THE DEER ESCAPED!

COOL OFF THE HEALTHY WAY!

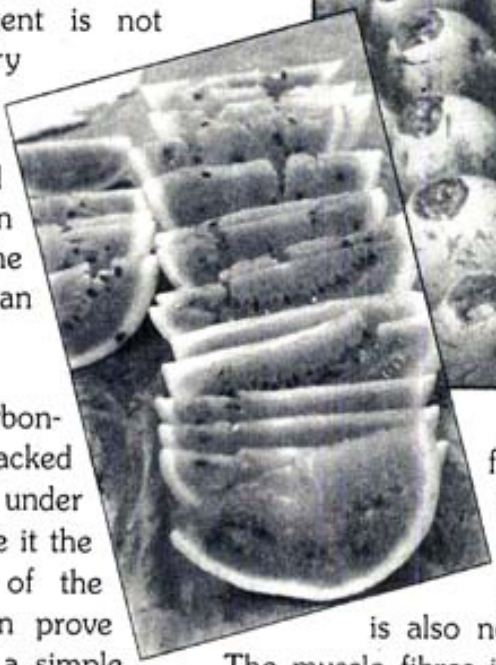


Summer is here, and every soft drink manufacturing firm has stepped up its advertisement campaign. T.V. and news paper ads. mesmerise you into buying this or that particular brand of cool drink. You are not only paying for the drink but also for the enormous advertisement budget of the company. What is worse, some manufacturers try to entice you with lottery like prizes.

The questions are : 1) Do you really have to pay Rs.9/- or Rs.10/- to quench your thirst? 2) Don't you have the strength of mind to resist the temptation of lottery type prizes which is

more or less like gambling? 3) Are you aware that the aerated drink that you consume is really bad for health?

Aerated soft drinks are not natural drinks but are chemically manufactured with artificial colouring agents. If you look at your tongue in the mirror after an orange or cola drink you will find that the tongue has changed colour. This chemical colouring agent is positively injurious to health, especially the alimentary tract. The essences or artificial flavours used in these drinks are also harmful chemicals. Moreover, the sweetening agent is not sugar or jaggery obtained from natural sources, but again an artificial chemical which can cause problems in the long run to the human body.



Above all the carbon-di-oxide which is packed into these bottles under high pressure to give it the "fizz" is a villain of the worst sort. You can prove this for yourself by a simple experiment. Pour a carbonated soft drink into a glass vessel and put a piece of bone into it. If you look at the bone after a couple of days, you will find that the bone has been eroded. This erosion is the result of the gas interacting with the bone. So, when you take carbonated drinks very often you can be sure that your teeth will be affected, for the teeth are less strong than the inner bones of the body.

Bottled drinks are kept in deep freezers and swallowing such biting cold drinks is also not advisable. The muscle fibres in the throat and stomach contract strongly because of the chillness. More over the throat becomes a good breeding place for microbes,

resulting in sore throat, cough, cold etc., Believe it or not such cool drinks do not quench thirst. They actually cause dehydration and you become thirsty once again after a few minutes.

If aerated drinks are to be avoided then what is the best? Pure water is the answer. You need to drink atleast five to eight tumblers of water a day depending on your age. Be sure that the water you drink has been boiled with the bubbles appearing on the surface for atleast one minute. This water should then be cooled to room temperature. You can keep it in a fridge, if you have one at home. But the water should not become too cold.

To Gokulam Readers Living in Mumbai!

Dear Children and their Parents,

Please note that there has been a change in the Mumbai agency for your favourite magazine Gokulam from 01.04.2001.

We have a new agent for Mumbai (barring Chembur area) who will look after the sales of Gokulam (English and Tamil), Kalki, Mangayar Malar and Thuglak. The new agent's name and address is as follows :

Mr. P. JEEVA, Lakshmi News Agent, 5/16, Dr. A.V. Baliga Nagar, Jasmine Mills Road, Mumbai - 400 017.

Phone : Off : 4093448 Res : 4075306

Please contact our new agent for your requirements of Gokulam (English) and other magazines listed above.

Manager

Kalki • Gokulam • Mangayar Malar

Similarly very hot drinks should also be avoided. Modern scientists say that one should drink water at periodical intervals even if one is not thirsty. But do not over do it. A tumbler of water early in the morning on an empty stomach will do a lot of good, to the body system. The kidneys need to be kept flushed!

If you are tired of drinking just water and are looking for a change, tender coconut water will do a world of good to you. It is a natural drink - sweet, cool and pure - and it has the capacity to do a lot of good to your kidneys and urinary tract. You can also try water melon juice with a pinch of salt or sugar added according to taste.

Ofcourse there are other fruit juices but if you find them costly, the cheapest would be lemon squash or butter milk, that is, skimmed curd from which butter has been removed. As for the lemon squash, if you prepare it with barley water instead of plain water, it would give you additional strength and protection during the hot summer months.

So cool off this summer the proper and healthy way.

- Jayanthan

(As told by a doctor)

Cover Illustration : **Jayaraj**

IF WISHES COULD COME TRUE...!

I wish I were Shakespeare,
To win compliments from far and near.
I would create dramas and write poetry,
Either as comedies or a heart rending
tragedy

I wish I were to sell ice cream,
To tinkle the bell and scream,
"Chocolate, vanilla, pista and strawberry,
If you like butterscotch or raspberry!"

I wish I were Mickey Mouse,
Loved by children in every house.
With Minnie and Pluto I will entertain;
To build brave and kind hearts, you may
ascertain!

I wish I were a bird
To fly around the world.
I wish I were a drop of dew,
Oh! If wishes could only come true!

Rajshree Das, Std. X, Chennai

A MEMORABLE SERIES

The recent visit of the Australians to India proved to be memorable in many ways. After a series of consecutive test victories, sixteen to be exact, the Aussies lost two successive tests and the series to the Indian team, which thrilled every sports loving person here. The Australian press, while lauding the Indian team for their impressive victory, stressed the fact that their boys had put up a tough fight till the very end, and described it as a glorious defeat.

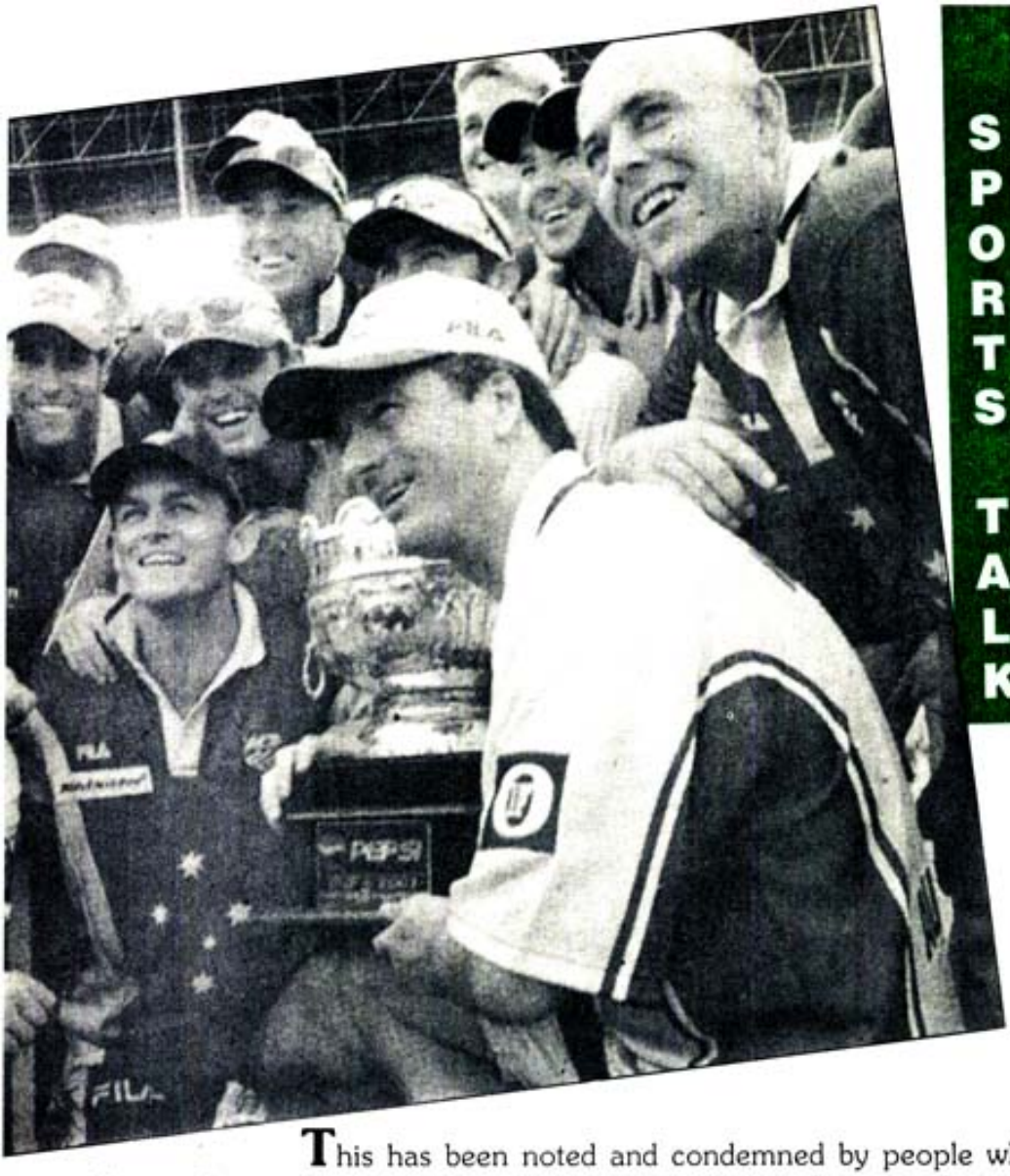
While Laxman's double century and more and Harbhajan's hat-trick and haul of sizeable number of wickets will be remembered for long, there were great moments in the Aussies' game as well.

Following the three test series, the one dayers created a lot of expectation and when India lead 2 - 1 there was great joy and euphoria among cricket lovers. But the Aussies came back with determination and levelled the series at Vishakapatnam. They also won the last match and the one day series at Goa. But India's score of 266 for six was certainly a fighting total in this last fixture, where V.V.S. Laxman scored his first century in one dayers. It was good cricket all round.

Sachin was in his usual form during this one-day series and set up his record of 10,000 runs in one dayers. But Ganguly was not in a good mood and this affected his play to a large extent. Perhaps he was upset by the Australians' intimidating tactics.

• Australian Team

• Sachin



This has been noted and condemned by people who still consider cricket as a gentleman's game. When video recordings of their several gesticulations towards the Indian players; show of anger, and arguments with umpires are clipped and strung together, the TV screen is almost aflame and the viewer is really shocked at their behaviour.

That apart, the Aussies need to be congratulated on their brilliant performance. 'Three cheers' to Michael Bevan who wielded a responsible bat at Goa and scored 87 not out, besides the winning run. No wonder he was elected "man of the match." But the pleasant surprise was Mathew Hayden. He was picked by captain Steve Waugh as the "find of the tour" and ended up as the "man of the series!"

Let us wish Steve Waugh and his men all the best and say, "until we meet again!"

New Serial by
Anuradha K. Rajivan

Part I

THE CASE OF THE MISSING ORPHANS

Mina did a little dance, twirling round and round, hands outstretched! "Stop! You'll get dizzy!" said Appa, who watched her in the mirror while shaving. But Mina went on and on. She was excited. For the first time she was going to travel by train - alone! Ofcourse, Babu would be traveling with her, but then he did not count as he was only... how old was he? wondered Mina counting on her fingers. 'Wow! He's going to be thirteen! A teenager! I wonder whether he'll act all SUPERIOR now that he is thirteen!'

Mina's seventh standard final exams were over. She was going to Igatpuri for the summer where her grandmother, Big Amma, lived. And it was an overnight journey!

Appa had a conference which he just could not miss, but he had promised to join later to bring Mina back well in time for the next school session. Babu lived in Igatpuri, in the same compound that Big Amma lived. The Igatpuri place was massive by the standards of Madras - where Mina and her father lived in a second floor flat. Big Amma had an enormous compound where she lived in the main house. There were two other out-houses in the compound and many, many trees. There were mangoes, jamuns, berries and jungle jilebies all growing in the compound. Mina loved climbing the mango tree because it had easy to climb branches! How worried that had made Big Amma last time because some of the branches overlooked a huge well! Babu lived in one of the outhouses with his family - his parents and a pesky set of seven year old twins, Shalu the boy and Malu the girl.

Big Amma had sent Babu to travel back with Mina. Babu had done the Madras - Igatpuri route two or three times before, so Appa had agreed. Mina had not been to

Igatpuri for two years. Neither had she been regular in replying to Big Amma's many letters because Mina had felt a bit lazy to write back. She would just add a sentence or two in Appa's formal letters which were mostly about boring things like Big Amma's lands and house and rent. "Why can't Big Amma just get herself email?" Appa had glared at Mina. "Don't you go around saying such things to her! She feels uncertain and a little lonely after Amma died. She has no one except you and me. So

remember to be nice to her. Don't forget to bend down and touch her feet as soon as you meet her!"

Babu grinned. "You sure need to brush up on your manners! In fact, come on, start practicing! Touch my feet right now so I can bless you! After all I am two whole years older!"

"Fond hopes!" heckled Mina sticking her tongue out. "Don't you try to 'look after' me on the train! I'll be fine! AC II class is quite safe with lots of passengers! I'm going to pretend that I don't even know you!"

"We'll see!"

Soon they were off to the station. Appa helped them load their luggage. He had made tomato and cucumber sandwiches for the children and also packed some curd-rice with lemon pickles and fried potatoes. They had also bought two large packets of potato chips from a reputed 'chat' shop. "You can finish one on the train and keep the second one for Big Amma!" Appa had instructed. Water bottles, suitcases, small carry bags, everything was loaded. "Be careful, Mina! Neither of you should get off the train ANYWHERE, except tomorrow at Igatpuri! No accepting anything, anything at all, from anyone on the train!"

Babu and Mina promised. They had heard about the biscuit bandits.

Just as they were saying goodbye, Mina suddenly felt a mixture of nervousness and uncertainty. She hugged Appa tight and whispered, "Pa! I'm scared! I don't want to go!" Appa held her away to take a good look at her. "Nothing Pa! Nothing! Don't say anything in front of Babu! Please!" She pleaded, stabilizing herself.

Babu was busy pushing his suitcase under the seat but he seemed to have heard. "Cry baby! So, you're going to pretend that you don't even know me, uh!"

Good byes were said. The train started moving. They were off!

Babu and Mina looked around to see what the other passengers were like. "Hey! That tall man with the curly hair and glasses looks strange, doesn't he?"

"Have you noticed, he hasn't moved at all. And he looks so grim. Why does he keep his hands so firmly on that small box?" whispered back Mina.

"You're right! He is sitting so stiffly, it looks as if he does not want to take his hands off the box even for a minute. I wonder what's inside?"

"Lets keep a watch on him."

"What about that old woman? She looks nice with all that shining, white hair!"

"It looks so white, do you think it might be fake?"

"Looks like you want something mysterious to happen."

"You never know! We might be lucky!"

"You mean *unlucky!* I don't want anything to happen till I deposit you safely with your Big Amma!"

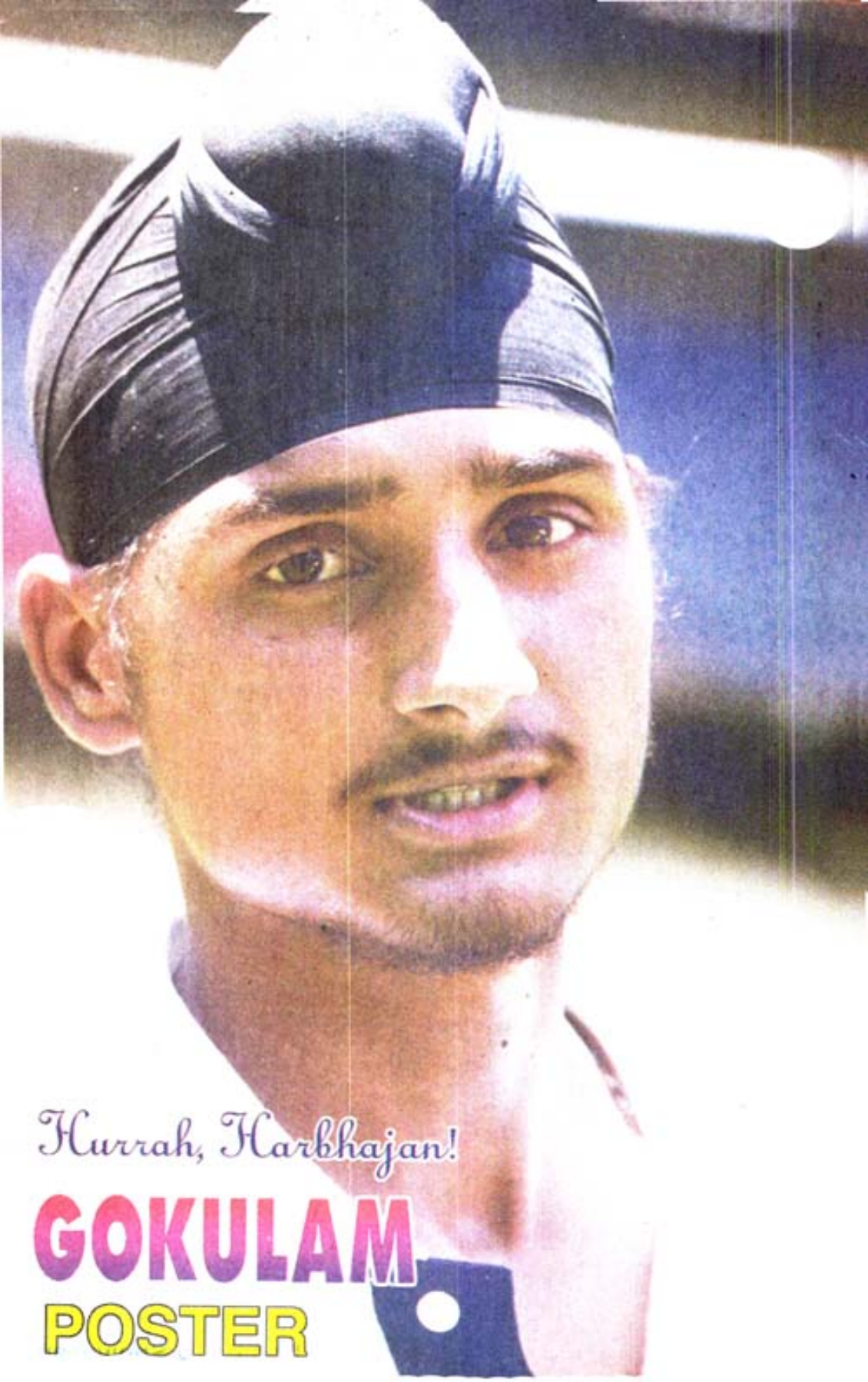
"I'll take the upper berth, if you don't mind!" said Mina.

"I do mind! But being so kind and so responsible, I *allow* you to have the upper berth!" replied Babu.

Just then the tall man with glasses also jumped onto the upper berth, taking the box with him! Mina and Babu looked at each other. "Do you want to change your mind? Should I take the upper berth?" Babu asked in a low voice.

Mina was tempted. She did not want to be near that strange man. But neither did she want to be teased by Babu. "No, of course not! I'll be fine!" she said, pretending that all was well.

What was in store for Mina and Babu? Read on in part II.


Hurrah, Harbhajan!
GOKULAM
POSTER

'Spurty'- Our cute 'Scoot!'

A second hand scooter we thought very nice,
We bought really at a bargain price!
With its sleek body and electro start,
It did seem it would smoothly dart!

But lo! To our utter dismay and despair,
The very next day it went for repairs!
The brakes had failed we were told,
The mileage low when it was sold!

At the service station it would remain,
Till it was fit to be driven again!
It came back all spruced up and bright,
A ride on it was now sheer delight!

- Akhilesh Krishnan,
Std. V B, New Era S.S.S., Baroda.

PUZZLE PAGES

WHAT MAKES THE TOWER OF PISA LEAN?

GIGGLE RIDDLES

1. Why is a fisherman wealthy?
2. What do you need in the long run?
3. What is better than presence of mind in an automobile accident?
4. What makes the Tower of Pisa lean?
5. How old would you be if you were very fat?
6. Mrs. Bigger had a baby, who was bigger?
7. Why is an empty purse always the same?
8. What question can never be answered 'yes'?
9. How many times can 18 be subtracted from 180?
10. Why doesn't a steam locomotive like to sit down?
11. Why is it silly to buy coal?
12. Why are fish well educated?
13. Why did Fred's mother knit him three socks?
14. What is the difference between a book and a bore?
15. What colours will you paint the sun and the wind?

- Swathi Saundati, Std. X B, St. Joseph's Convent H.S., Belgaum

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY...

1. Who served nectar to Gods and Goddesses on Mount Olympus?
2. Who was part woman and part bird?
3. Who was the Goddess of justice and vengeance?
4. Who was the God of youth, light, healing and music?

- Abhishek G. Udupa, Std. IXA, S.T.J.H.S., Davangere

UNUSUAL PARA

How quickly can you find out what is so unusual about this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you

would think that nothing was wrong with it at all, and infact nothing is! But it is unusual, why? If you study it and think about it you may find out. So, go to work and try your skill!

- G. Prashanth Sekar, Std. IX, Space Central School, Sullurupeta.

AUTHORS AND THEIR BOOKS

Match the authors with their books :

1.A suitable Boy	a) William Shakespeare
2.A Tale of Two Cities	b) Vikram Seth
3.Adam Bede	c) E.M. Forster
4.A Passage to India	d) Leo Tolstoy
5.A Sense of Time	e) Charles Dickens
6.A Midsummer Night's Dream	f) H.S. Vatsyayan
7.Animal Farm	g) George Eliot
8.Anna Karenina	h) George Orwell

- R. Ester, Std. XII, P.S.G.R.K.H.S.S., Coimbatore

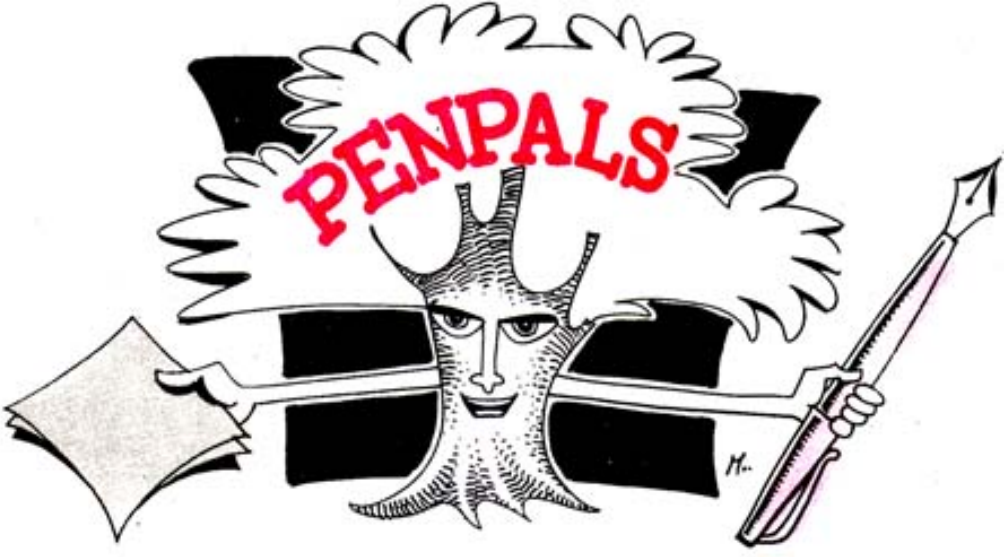
COUNTRIES IN HIDING!

Find the ten countries hidden in this grid:

- R. Shishir, The Bangalore High School, Bangalore

L	C	E	T	P	N	S	T
I	H	C	N	E	P	A	L
B	I	H	E	R	E	I	N
R	L	B	H	U	T	A	N
A	E	K	A	J	J	Z	A
Z	A	M	B	I	A	K	B
I	H	S	T	A	P	N	S
L	S	Y	R	I	A	S	P
W	X	A	Z	T	N	L	A
I	A	N	D	A	N	I	I
R	I	A	E	L	G	C	N
U	A	G	E	Y	M	Y	N

ANSWERS ON PAGE : 61



Name : **S. Ramamoorthy**
Age : 13
Address : 9-A, 258, Periyasamy Nagar, Alagapuram Pudhur, Fairlands Post, Salem - 636 016.
Hobbies : Reading books, playing and watching cricket, seeing T.V., listening to music and making friends.

Name : **G.B. Prerana**
Age : 12
Address : E1/225, I Block, Paper Town, Bhadravathi - 577 302.
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, riding bicycle, learning music, watching T.V. and playing video games.

Name : **Saipradeep**
Age : 10
Address : H.No.16-11-511/D/46, Shalivahana Colony, Dilsukh Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 036.
Hobbies : Reading books, listening to music, programming computers, stamp collection and cycling.

Name : **R. Poornima**
Age : 9
Address : 63, Officers Colony, Akshaya Apts., 3-C-B-Block, Puthur, Trichy - 17.
Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, watching cartoons, playing, dancing, stamp collection and gardening.

Name : **S. Jayalakshmi**
Age : 14
Address : New No.4/85, P.S. Street, Nangur (P.O.) Sirkali Taluk, 609 106.
Hobbies : Reading, painting and making friends.

Name : **Anusha Dayanand**
Age : 10
Address : "Benaka", Amba Road, Ambalpady, Udipi - 576 103. Karnataka.
Hobbies : Reading story books, dancing, music and gardening.

Name : **Anoop**
Age : 13
Address : IV type, 36, Officers quarters, Bem Nagar, K.G.F.
Hobbies ; Reading novels, playing games and stamp collection.

Name : **S. Mansoor Ali**
Age : 13
Address : D-No.3-418, Tilak St., Piler - 517 214.
Hobbies : Reading books, painting and tennis.

Name : **Varsha G. Kashyap**
Age : 15
Address : 392/1, "Kausalya", VI Main, III Cross, N.R. Colony, Bangalore - 560 019.
Hobbies : Reading books, listening to music, making friends and chatting.

Name : **N. Sahana**
Age : 10
Address : E-1/240, 2nd Block, M.P.M. Officers' Quarters, Paper Town, Bhadravathi - 577 302.
Hobbies : Cycling, watching T.V., reading and music.

Name : **Sindhuja**
Age : 14
Address : M-67, Police Colony, Trichy - 26.
Hobbies : Painting, reading, coins and stamp collection, cycling and listening to music.

Name : **R. Kavitha**
Age : 15
Address : 18, Second A Cross, Opp. to Pipeline Road, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 086.
Hobbies : Stamp and coin collection, reading, painting, listening to music, playing badminton and volleyball.

Name : **B. Sahana**
Age : 11
Address : D-1/333, 7th Block, Paper Town, Bhadravathi - 577 302.
Hobbies : Reading GK books, playing shuttle, cycling and drawing.

Name : **M. Monisha**
Age : 11
Address : 314E2/2, Swamy Ayyappa Colony, K.P. Road, Nagercoil - 629 003.
Hobbies : Reading books, music, drawing, writing poems, collecting coins and stamps.

Name : **C. Subbu and V. Nivas**
Age : 15
Address : New 38, Mettu St., Sathangadu, Thiruvotriyur, Chennai - 600 019.
Hobbies : Philately, writing poems, reading fiction and participating in competitions.

Name : **Juala Catherina**
Age : 12
Address : No.33, III Street, Shanthi Nagar, Adambakkam, Chennai - 600 088.
Hobbies : Reading novels and comics, collecting stamps and key chains, playing video games.

Name : **Michael Singh**
Age : 8
Address : 12/20, Shenoy Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.
Hobbies : Reading, playing tennis, piano and watching cartoon network.

RABBY THE CLEVER

Once upon a time in a forest there lived a fox called Soxy. Soxy was very fond of eating rabbits. All the rabbits were terrified of him and never came out of their houses whenever he was around.

On a rainy day Soxy the fox was feeling very hungry and not minding the rain, he roamed the forest for food. He came across a rabbit hole and saw a board which read "Rabby the Rabbit."

Soxy's mouth began to water and his hunger increased. He decided to cheat Rabby and gobble him up.

"Rabby, dear friend!" he called in a loud but friendly voice. "Please open the door. It is raining heavily. I'll catch a cold and perhaps even die of fever!"

"But once inside, you are sure to kill and eat me up!" said Rabby, opening the window a small crack, to let his voice be heard.

"Oh! Didn't I tell you?" asked Soxy cunningly. "I

am a strict vegetarian now! I am suffering from a stomach disorder and my doctor Dinkey the monkey has specified diet control for atleast a month. He says I'm sure to die if I disobey his orders!"

Rabby believed Soxy's words and let him in. Once the door was opened Soxy pounced on Rabby.

"But... what about your diet?" asked Rabby.

"Oh! I just remembered; the one month diet period ended yesterday" said Soxy. "Now I am free to eat whatever I want! Ha! ha!"

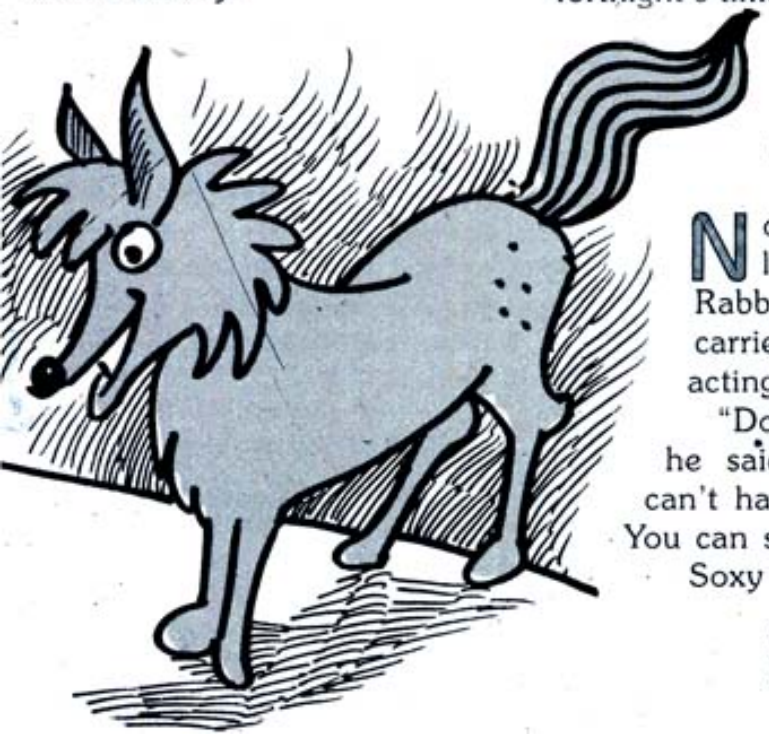
Soxy laughed wickedly and licked his lips, catching hold of Rabby in a tight grip.

"Wait! wait!" said Rabby. "You are making a big mistake! If you eat me, you are sure to die!"

RABBIT

"How can that be?" asked Soxy suspiciously.

"Well, I am suffering from cholera", said Rabby. "I am under the care of the super specialist Benzy the bear. He has given me some ayurvedic medicine which is sure to cure me in about a fortnight's time. But before that, any one who kills and eats me is sure to catch cholera and die!"



Now Soxy was a little hesitant. Rabby realising this, carried on with his play acting:

"Don't worry Soxy," he said. "What if you can't have me for lunch? You can still eat my wife!"

Soxy smacked his lips.

"Ofcourse, ofcourse" he said. "But where is she?"

"She's in our new house"

said Rabby. "You see we were in the midst of shifting, when this heavy rain interfered."

"Your new house? Where is it? Let's go! What are we waiting for?" Soxy was in a great hurry as his hunger intensified.

So, Rabby led the way and Soxy followed him. After a ten minute walk, Rabby reached a den and pointing to it said, "my wife must be inside resting. I can even hear her snore!"

Soxy was so hungry and so eager to taste rabbit meat that he ran into the den shouting, "here I come to kill and eat you!" He never stopped to think.

'Thank God, Timothy the tiger doesn't have a name board in front of his house' thought Rabby and chuckled.

Soon a big roar was heard. But nothing was heard thereafter about Soxy!

The rabbits of the forest heaved a sigh of relief and thanked Rabby. They showed their gratitude by supplying him carrots for one whole month absolutely free!

— Deepthi Valsan,
Std. V,
K.V. Varangaon

THE EMPTY CAGE

Toru was sitting in the front verandah of her house with her chin in her palms. She was feeling very miserable. The reason was that the two girls living next door ignored her, and this had hurt her. Even now she could hear their laughter from the neighbouring house and this made her jealous and angry too.

It was not as if she had not tried to develop some friendship. Last evening when they were playing ball in their front yard, she neared the fence which separated the two houses. She coughed to attract their attention and hoped they would invite her to play with them.

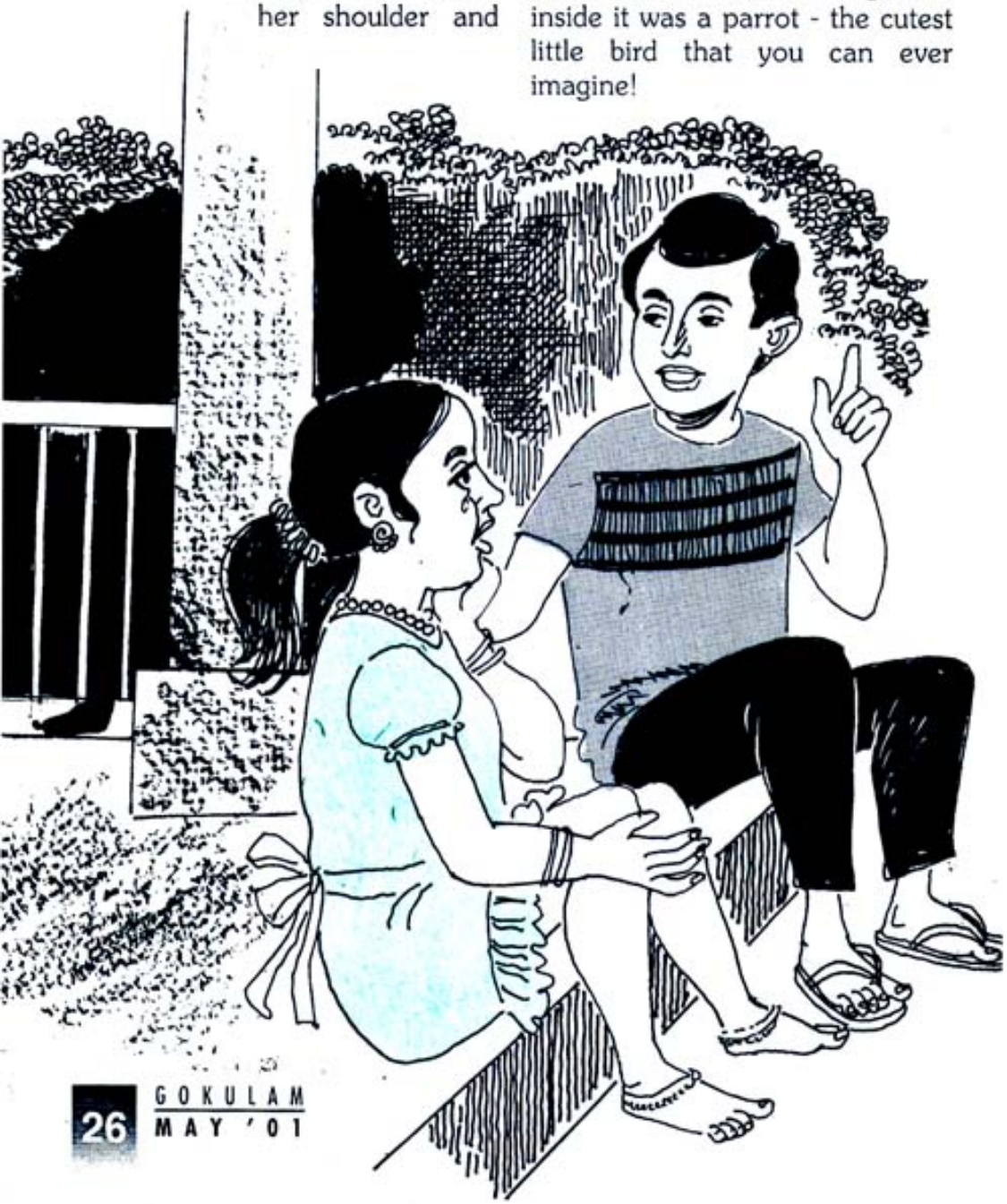
One of the girls turned towards her and Toru introduced herself. "I'm Lakshmi" said the girl and pointing to the other girl she said, "My sister Radha." That was all! They continued their ball game, completely ignoring her.

Toru continued with her brooding when her brother walked in. "Well well, what's wrong with

my sweet little sister?" Madan asked half serious and half joking. "Bhaiya" Toru sobbed, "I am feeling lonely; I have no friends at all!"

"Come, come!" said Madan, "It's no reason to cry like this. I'll get you a good friend, don't worry!" He patted her shoulder and consoled her. "That is a promise" he added.

Madan kept up his promise. The next day when he came home he had a big parcel with him. It was loosely wrapped and Toru tore it open with great excitement, to reveal a cage and inside it was a parrot - the cutest little bird that you can ever imagine!



"See, I've presented you with a friend" said Madan. "It will talk with you whenever you want. What's more, it will say only that which you would like to hear!"

Toru was so thrilled that she even forgot to thank Bhaiya, who hung the cage in the front verandah. Toru clapped her hands and jumped with joy. She spent the whole evening with her new friend teaching it to say a few words like 'Hello!' 'Sweet!' and 'Toru!' She even sang a nursery rhyme but it was too much for the parrot to learn.

Out of the corner of her eyes Toru could see Lakshmi and Radha standing near the fence and staring at her and her pet. Toru casually went near them as if to pluck a flower and it was Lakshmi who asked, "is it really talking?"

"Ofcourse" said Toru, "but it has to learn... it will take time."

"Can we come and see it?" ventured Radha a little shyly.

"Sure! Come any time!" said Toru. And that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

The girls came with their ball and what a wonderful time they had playing catches! They imagined themselves to be Azhar, Jonty Rhodes or Robin Singh! The rest of the time they stood around the cage talking to the parrot. "Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!" cooed Lakshmi, remembering Long John Silver and his pet parrot.

She told the others the entire story of "Treasure Island" which

she had read and loved.

A few days went by and one morning when Toru came to the verandah with her cup of milk, she saw a bunch of parrots land gracefully on the road side tree opposite to her house. They made a lot of noise, and as suddenly as they had landed, they took off one after the other like a flight formation of jet planes! There were atleast four of them.

Toru turned her head to see her pet and it suddenly occurred to her that it was feeling sad, sitting all alone, in it's cage. 'It has no friends at all' Toru thought, 'especially when I am away at school. It must be feeling terribly bored and miserable.'

She remembered the day when she had just the same problem and her heart froze. 'I'll open the cage and let it fly away' she decided impulsively and went near her pet. 'But will Lakshmi and Radha come to play with me after the parrot is gone? Will Bhaiya scold me for setting it free?' She hesitated for a couple of minutes, weighing the pros and cons and finally decided, 'come what may, I want my parrot to be happy, and that is more important than anything else.'

That evening Radha and Lakshmi were shocked to see the empty cage. "What happened?" they asked.

"All birds are meant to be free" said Toru. "I allowed it to join it's friends, though it is a personal loss for me."

"Don't look so sad" said Lakshmi, taking Toru's hand. "Radha and I will come every evening to play with you, so that you won't feel lonely!"

- K. Janaranjani, Std. VII E, Jawahar Vidyalaya.

Dear Janaranjani, you have written a beautiful story. But why didn't you furnish your full address? Please do so at once.

- Editor

Teacher : What are your favourite numbers?

Susie : 147, 293, 78 and 41.

Teacher : Good, now add up your favourite numbers.

Susie : Er... I think the numbers I really like are 2 and 2!

- Vandana S. Nair, Std. VIII B, F.A.P.S., Bangalore

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PREVENT AIDS - LOVE ALL

057/3-2001 C

The year : 2100 A.D. As a senior executive of WOSAA (World's Outer Space Aeronautics and Administration) I was given a dangerous mission. I was to pilot a spaceship under captain Xandu to a solar system other than ours, and land on one of it's several satellites. This satellite named Emerald was thought to have an atmosphere conducive for the formation and growth of several kinds of life forms. Our journey was declared to be the "most ambitious ever space project" undertaken by man.

The mission would take a couple of years of travelling. But by Earth's time it would be a decade or more, as defined by the time dilation principle.

EARTH DISASTER

On the scheduled day we blasted off at the appointed hour. Captain Xandu gave the orders which we astronauts and the robots accompanying us executed to precision.

The object of the mission was to find out if life forms existed in satellite Emerald so named because of the green belt seen around it by our earlier space laboratories.

The journey was thrilling with beautiful views of the solar system which we were leaving behind. The mission was also dangerous because of meteors and space junk which we had to avoid carefully in order to prevent collision and damage to our space ship.

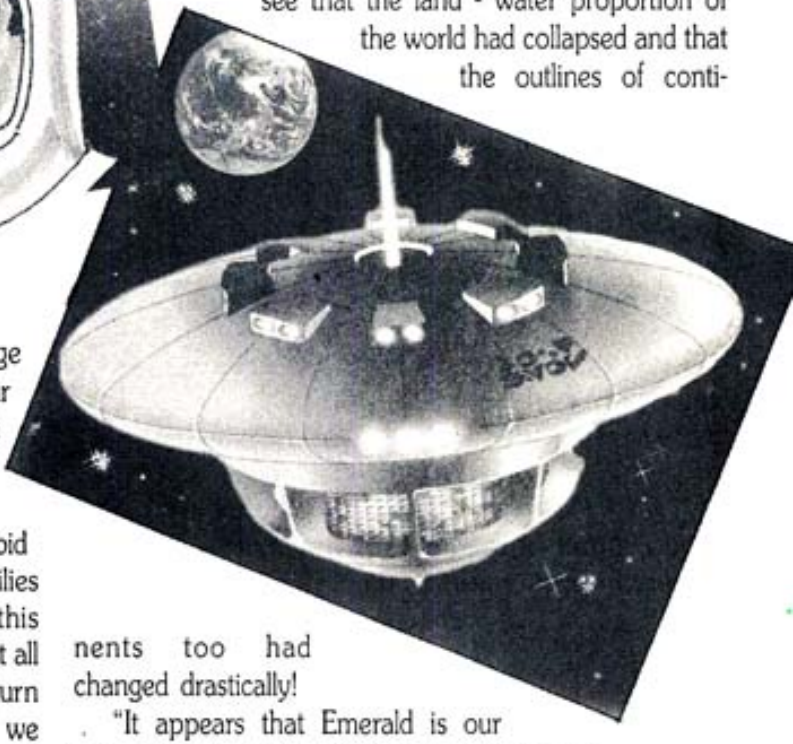
Half way through we received a message from head quarters asking us to return immediately to Earth! We were stunned and terribly disappointed. Captain Xandu wanted to know if anything had gone wrong with our space ship. "Not that we know of" came the reply. "But every thing has gone wrong here! World politics has turned upside down! The democratic government of UCE (United Countries of the Earth) has been toppled and terrorist leader Texmaco has taken over!"

We reluctantly abandoned our mission and started guiding the space ship back to earth. Soon we received another message from the president of WOSAA : "The situation has worsened here! The government forces are fighting back; but the terrorist chief Texmaco is threatening to use the nuclear arsenal which he has captured! Terrible destruction is

was it wise to land on earth? Even if we did decide to land, will there be ground control equipments to guide us and will there be experts to man them properly? How can we land without such back up?"

We decided to wait and watch and ordered space laboratories to monitor the earth instead of distant planets through their powerful telescopes.

We got the feedback in a matter of hours and to our dismay we could see on the monitor screen, the earth as a barren mass of scorched land! Setting foot on earth meant immediate death due to abnormal radiation! We could even see that the land - water proportion of the world had collapsed and that the outlines of continents too had changed drastically!



expected..." The message was cut off and our efforts to restore communication failed!

Most of us had bid good bye to our families before undertaking this space voyage and almost all of us wanted to return immediately so that we could be with our loved ones at a time of crisis. But captain Xandu held out a note of warning. "A nuclear war not only meant total destruction but also uncontrollable radiation. Under the circumstances

"It appears that Emerald is our best bet" said captain Xandu in a voice choked with emotion. Tears rolled down our eyes in silent sorrow. We can never see our loved ones again. Xandu patted each one of us on our shoulder trying to comfort us.

"Gentlemen!" he said in a gruff tone. "Let's change course and test our fortunes in Emerald!"

- C. Santosh, Age 16, Shrine Vailankanni H.S.S., Chennai.

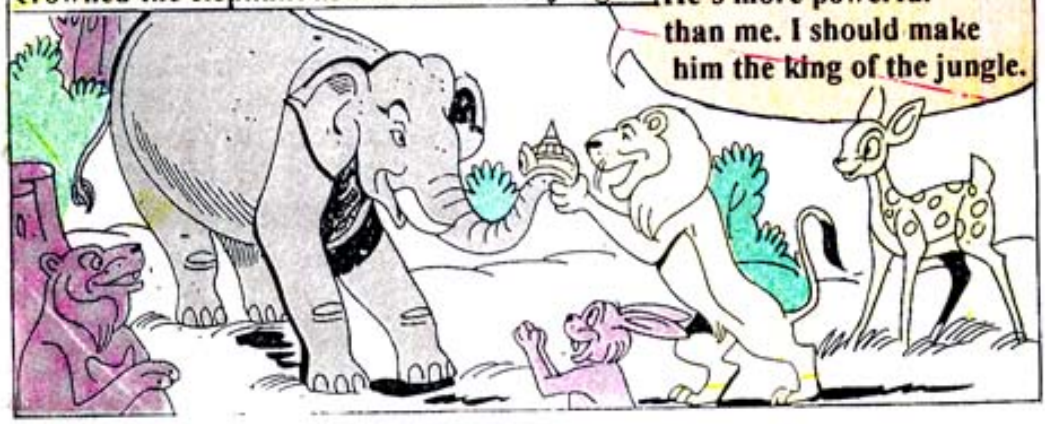
The lion king

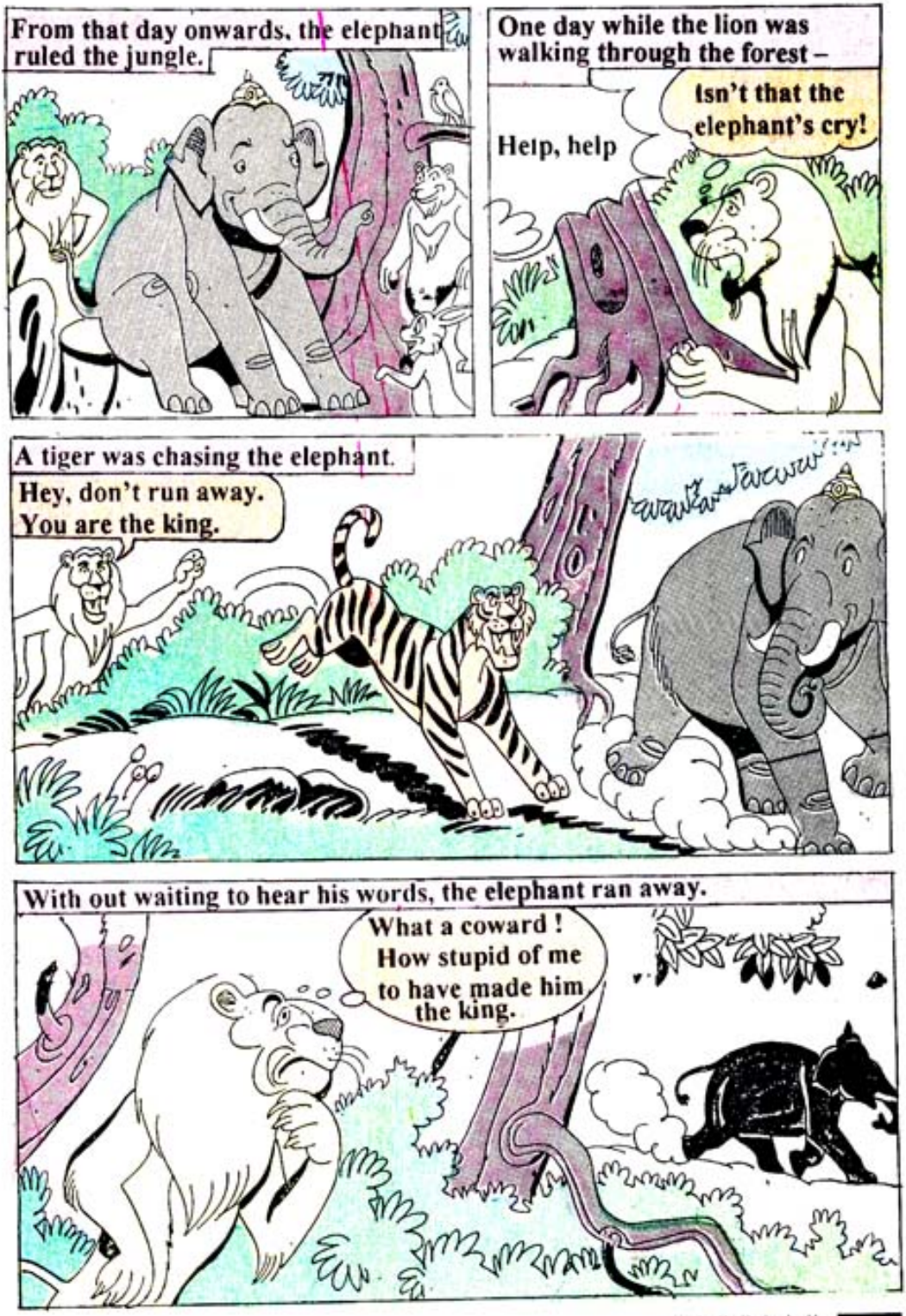
The lord of the jungle was the lion. One day while the lion was walking through the forest.

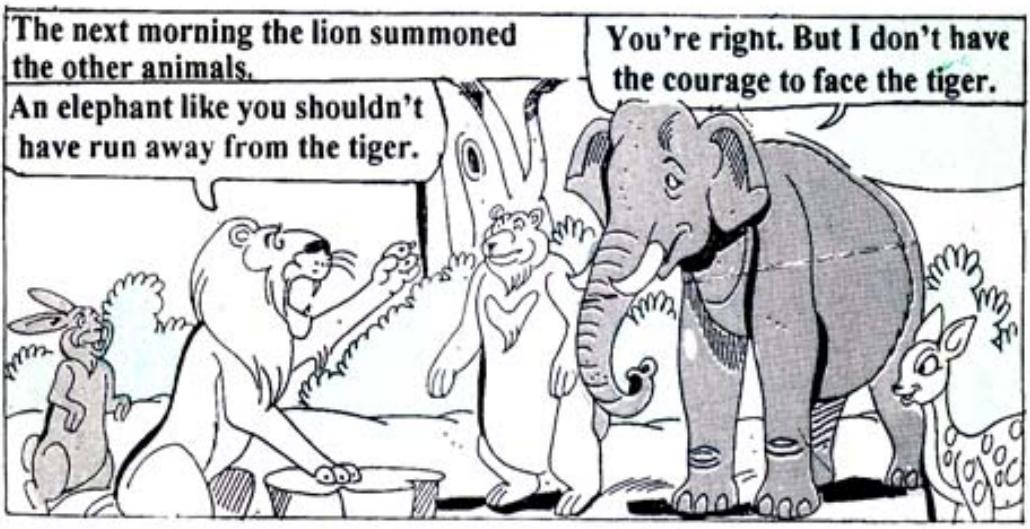
The lion was stunned by what he saw. An elephant was uprooting a tree.

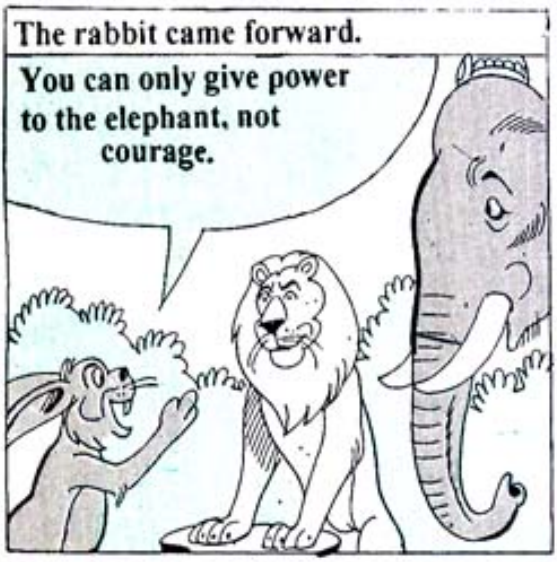
email:saifeatures@yahoo.com

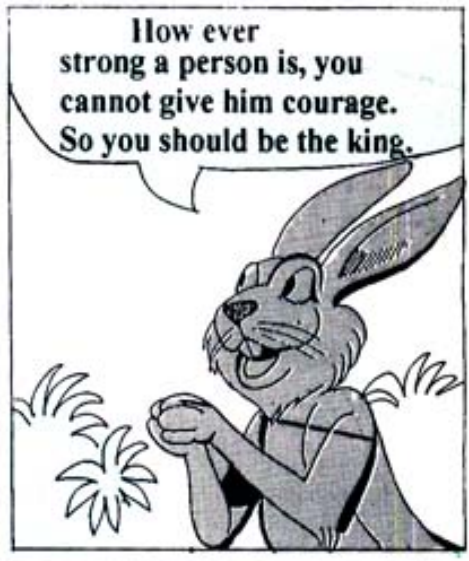
Soon the lion summoned the other animals of the jungle and crowned the elephant as the lord of the jungle.




From that day onwards, the elephant ruled the jungle.
One day while the lion was walking through the forest –
Isn't that the elephant's cry!
Help, help
A tiger was chasing the elephant.
Hey, don't run away. You are the king.
With out waiting to hear his words, the elephant ran away.
What a coward ! How stupid of me to have made him the king.


The next morning the lion summoned the other animals.
An elephant like you shouldn't have run away from the tiger.
You're right. But I don't have the courage to face the tiger.


The rabbit came forward.
You can only give power to the elephant, not courage.


How ever strong a person is, you cannot give him courage. So you should be the king.

And so the lion once again became the lord of the jungle.

INDOOR GAME

FUNTASTIC YELLOW STATIONS

Its holiday season and here is a game for you to play indoors, avoiding the summer heat.

Cut out the four squares on this page paste them on a cardboard and clip to size, so that each one of the four players has a coin of his choice

(Max : Four : Min : two players.)

The Board game is on the center spread of this issue.

Roll a dice. The person who throws a six starts first and goes to number one, and there after according to the number he or she throws. There is no second chance whatever number you may throw.

During the game if you reach a yellow square you have to act as per instructions detailed below.

Everybody laughs but no one gets angry! Each act will last for just five seconds.

When you reach 53 throwing the exact number required, you can shout "Yeh" and jump to victory without any further dice throw.

The others will continue with the game to decide on their winning ranks.

The person who gets the first rank will order each one of the other three to perform a funny act according to his imagination. The other three will oblige, amidst hearty laughter.

Now go to page 40 and enjoy the fun game!

Acts to be performed on reaching yellow squares :

2. Sing the first two lines of any one song.
7. Tell a proverb.
10. Perform bharathanatyam.
12. Walk like grandpa.
15. Act like riding a scooter.
18. Act like your school teacher.
22. Laugh your head off!
24. Repeat a famous quotation or golden words.
27. Scratch yourself like a monkey.
31. Bray like a donkey.
33. Walk like an elephant.
35. Squeak like a bird.
38. "She sells sea shells on the sea shore" - Keep repeating at great speed!
43. Pose a riddle to others and give the answer too if they can't figure it out.
46. Jump about on one leg.
48. Imagine yourself to be Michael Jackson - sing and dance!
50. Sing the first two lines of a lullaby.
53. Shout 'Yeh' and snatch victory!

Game conceived and illustrated by : **Jayraj**

TANU: THE GIRL WITH A GOLDEN HEART!

Tanu and her friends were hurrying along the pavement towards their school which was within walking distance of their houses. It was the last day of their exams and all of them were a bit tense and looking forward to the end of it all!

Suddenly there was a loud screeching of tyres and as Tanu turned around to see what was happening, she could also hear a thud! She was terrified and wanted to run towards school but better sense prevailed and she braced herself to witness something terrible.

As expected, chaos reigned over that portion of the road. "An old man has been hit", Tanu could hear several people shouting. Many ran towards the accident spot, while some others sped away as if it was no concern of theirs.

As Tanu tried to wade her way through the crowd towards the old man, Shilpa grabbed her hand. "Are you mad?" she asked. "Our exam commences in just half an hour. Don't get involved in anything messy now."

"I want to see if I can be of any help" said Tanu and shaking off Shilpa, she neared the accident spot. She could see through the corner of her eyes her friends walking away fast and wondered for a second if she was being stupid. But her feet continued on their way. Her parents had always taught her to be of help whenever

possible. If she was late for exams she might lose her number one rank to Shilpa. But she really did not care. 'That was not important - not now!'

The old man was a pathetic sight. Fortunately he was not hurt too much, but was in a state of shock. The driver of the vehicle which had hit him had sped away, fearing a police case.

"Will someone help me to take this old man to a hospital?" Tanu asked. The crowd started melting away! Luckily a kind hearted auto driver came to the rescue. "Are you related?" he asked. "No" said Tanu. "Well, give me a hand" he said, and supported on either side by Tanu and the auto driver, the old man managed to get into the auto. Tanu got in with him.

"It's rare to come across young people being so kind and humane" said the auto driver while he started the vehicle.

They got the old man admitted for a checkup and the hospital staff noted their addresses, auto number etc.,

"Just in case..." they said while the doctor was examining the old man.

"I have an exam to write" said Tanu. "Please may I leave doctor?"

The doctor looked at his watch and said, "you must be late already!"

"I'll take her in my auto" said the driver. "Don't worry if you have no money. I'm not going to charge

* Participants in the cultural programmes carefully rehearsed their dialogues and with the help of their parents prepared apt costumes too..

• He summoned Tanu on to the stage and gave her the certificate for best acting...

you."

"Good luck" said the doctor, while he started dialing the number given by the old man.

When she reached school she had lost a valuable half an hour. As she explained what happened, the examiner was moved. "Well, I'll put the clock back a few minutes for you" he said, with a twinkle in his eye, "and bend the rules a little bit."

Tanu thanked him and without any further time loss got down to the business of writing her last exam. But she didn't have time to attempt all the questions, although she knew the answers. "The rules cannot be bent a second time" said the examiner as he plucked the answer paper from her reluctant hands.

Three months elapsed. Tanu was in the ninth standard now. She had stood second in her final exams and had lost the first rank by ten marks. In only one subject had she scored less than Shilpa and had lost the "Outstanding Student" trophy to her. But she had no regrets. She had rendered timely help to an old man.

The school annual day was nearing and there was excitement in the air. Cultural events were planned. Tanu had given her name to take part in a play about Mother Theresa.

Ofcourse she did not expect to be selected for the lead role, but Aruna teacher chose her straight away saying, that the part fitted

her like a glove. "Tanu not only had the kind look but also the temperament", she explained.

Participants in the cultural programmes carefully rehearsed their dialogues and with the help of their parents prepared apt costumes too. An I.A.S., officer, Narendran was to be the chief guest for the Annual day.

Tanu's play was the third item in the cultural programme and it went on smoothly with each participant doing his or her part with deep involvement, but without over acting. They received a standing ovation when the curtains came down.

The chief guest rose to give his valedictory address. He talked in general terms about education and how it should build up character besides imparting knowledge. He cracked a couple of jokes at the right places in his speech and finally came to the point: "All the programmes today were good" he drawled, "but the play about Mother Theresa was outstanding. It was interesting and informative and had character. The girl who played Mother Theresa did remarkably well and I learn from her teachers that she is kind and helpful in real life too! I am happy to announce that my father himself was a recipient of her benevolence. She stood by him at a time of crisis and took him to a hospital when he was injured in an accident, a few months back. Thanks to our 'Mother Theresa' he is now well, having got over his shock and wounds. I take this opportunity to thank her in public and I would like to give her a gift in recognition of her talents and noble heart."

So saying he summoned Tanu on to the stage and gave her the certificate for best acting. He then did the unexpected. Removing a gold chain from his neck, he presented it to her amidst thunderous applause.

Tanu, who had changed over to school uniform by now, was too dazed for words; but the chief guest said what she would have wanted to say :

"May Mother Theresa bless her from heaven and may we have many more Tanus among our young people!"

- S. Charulatha

Patient : Have you anything for gray hair?

Doctor : Nothing, Madam, but the greatest respect.

-Shirish Deol, Chennai-90

See page 35 for the rules of the game :

42
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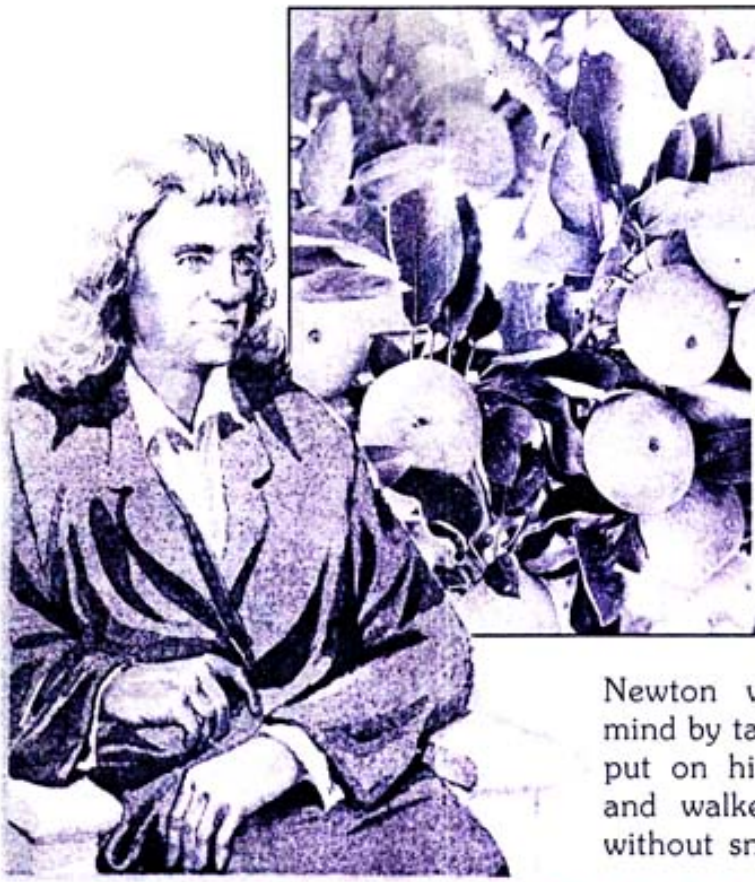

* Newton is always associated with apples for it helped him evolve the theory of relativity. But here we read about a different kind of association...

Newton wanted to clear his mind by taking a short walk. He put on his over coat and cap and walked out of the room without snuffing out the candle

NEWTON'S DIAMOND

Newton had a precious diamond, his pet dog. He named him Diamond because he was small and cute with sparkling eyes. Newton loved his dog, next only to his scientific work.

He had a lot of theories and research papers piled on his table. He worked late nights under candle light.

One evening an over worked on his table. That was typical of a scientist who was always thinking of his research work. He even forgot to whistle for Diamond to accompany him.

Soon after he had left, Diamond who was warming himself near the fireside, stretched and let out a yawn!

He looked around for his master and not finding him,

jumped on to his chair with a yelp. He then got on to the table and not realising the danger, started moving the papers with his nose while sniffing them. Some of the papers struck the candle stand and toppled it. The papers caught fire immediately.

Diamond now jumped off the table in fright and started barking from a safe distance. When Newton came back from his walk he found all his research papers reduced to ashes and his heart froze. Slowly he turned his head to see Diamond in a corner of the room trembling and whining.

Newton put two and two together and immediately knew what had happened. Anybody else would have beaten the dog and perhaps even killed it in anger, for having destroyed years of hard research and theories developed from such research. But Newton just patted the dog, and swallowing his grief said, "Oh! Diamond! Diamond! You little know what mischief you have done!"

- K. Dinesh Kumar,
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UNDER the Yoke

The school had no regular calendar. The boys came to school whenever they felt like it. The schoolmaster could not do a thing until a sufficient number turned up. And so half the time I had little work to do inside the school room. The other work that I did, held untold variety, the most important of my roles being to act as a scribe, to write letters, petitions and to write applications for the villagers. When it was discovered that I did these jobs without a murmur, every conceivable problem and grievance began coming my way. Whenever a sheep was lost, or a wife quarrelled with her husband, the schoolmaster was consulted - in the belief that schoolmasters are well-versed in law and common sense as they are educated and wise.

This kept me busy even when there was no teaching to be done. I had thrown myself wholeheartedly into the life of the village and a stage had come, when it could not do without me.

One day, while sowing was at its height, Shekhu came to see me. He had two or three acres of land outside the village and its cultivation was his only interest in life. It was early morning and he had covered himself with a dhoti as if it were a blanket. All I could see of him were his scraggy face and dusty feet, leathery from constant walking and his toes which had coarse ungainly nails on them. Ayubu was with me when Shekhu arrived.

"Sir", he said, without bothering to sit down, "please find me a bullock from somewhere. It is sowing time, you know."

It was pointless to say that as a teacher I was not likely to own a bullock. He said, "You can easily borrow one for me. I have one, the other died. I can sow my fields if I get another, otherwise it means starving - the whole year through."

"First tell me of a person who has a bullock to lend. Then I can ask him."

"Those who have bullocks have their own sowing to do. Who will want to delay their own sowing for the sake of another? I have tried everywhere," said Shekhu.

"In that case, whom do you

want me to ask?"

"Do what you like, but help me in my need. The whole village says the schoolmaster is always there in times of difficulty. Why do you treat me different?"

Ayubu had listened to all this without a word. He now turned to Shekhu and said, "Are you crazy? Where would the school master get a bullock? Is he a farmer? Is he a cattle dealer? Have you no sense that you come and beg for whatever stupid thing enters your head?"

Shekhu was obviously shaken.

"I will go now, but do try and do something for me, if possible," he said in a wheedling voice.

Ayubu got to his feet and propelled Shekhu down the steps and on to the road.

"What a fool you are, Shekhu! As if the schoolmaster carries bullocks under his arms."

Wife : Good news! I've lost weight!

Husband : I don't see it...

Wife : Ofcourse you don't! I told you, I've lost it!

- K. Janaranjani, Std. VII E, Jawahar Vidyalaya, Chennai - 83

Utterly crestfallen, Shekhu shuffled away.

Two days later, Shekhu was still without his bullock, although he had tried everywhere. He went home and slumped exhausted to the floor.

"It is useless," he told his wife. She was a strapping woman, standing head and shoulders above all the other women and half the men in the village. In the fields she did a man's work. "I have asked all over the village. No one is prepared to lend a bullock."

"What is to be done now?" she asked.

"We shall starve to death, that's all. Kick up our heels and starve," he answered, his voice low and heavy with despair.

She looked at her husband and saw that his eyes had the look of a lamp, which has nearly run out of oil.

"We start sowing tomorrow!" she said stoutly.

"What about the bullock?"

"Leave that to me. I shall get one."

"From where?"

"From wherever I please. What business is it of yours? I shall get the bullock. You just go across to the fields tomorrow morning. That's all."

Shekhu racked his brain. Where was his wife going to find a bullock? In the morning he hoisted the plough on his shoulder and set off towards his field, leading his solitary bullock with the other hand. Once there, he turned his face towards the village and sat down to await the arrival of his wife.

After an hour or so he saw her. She was alone. His face fell. "She has not been able to get a bullock. There would be no sowing now. A bullock might become available after the others have done their sowing. What good would that do? It would be too late. We must starve or roam from place to place in search of work..." His mind went on with his miserable brooding until his wife reached him.

"So you couldn't get a bullock?"

"Who says so? Get the plough ready."

"But, where is the bullock?"

"It is all right. Yoke the bullock at one end and I shall push at the other." Shekhu shuddered at his wife's words. "No, no it can't be," he muttered; but she had made up her mind and she knew that she was strong enough for the task. Seeing that her husband was too dejected even to lift his head, she put the bullock to the plough. Then placing one end of the yoke across her own shoulder, she bade Shekhu to bind her tightly to it.

The frail man hardened his heart, got up and signalled the bullock to move. The animal moved, so did the woman. The ploughshare pierced the earth and began to furrow a path through the damp soil. Shekhu released a handful of millet into the hopper. The grain coursed down and leaped to the ground. Shekhu's wife continued to pull along the side of the bullock.

The sowing went on all morning. At midday, the two, breathless from the exertion, sat down to a quiet lunch. Shekhu did not speak. The woman made small talk. Together they went to work until the seed was evenly covered by the upturned soil.

By evening they had sown the two-acre plot. Exhausted, they made their way home. Next day, the incredible tale was all over the village. There was astonishment, some admiration and even a feeling of scornful amusement.

That night, on my way back from school, I stopped outside Shekhu's house for a moment. Inside, the lamp light revealed the prostrate form of Shekhu's wife by the side of a wall. Shekhu stood on her back kneading her body with his feet. Supporting himself with his hands against the wall, he was massaging his wife's aching back with a slow movement of each foot.

- Vyankatesh Madgulkar

From the book "Classic Short Stories" published by Madhuban Educational Books. 576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, New Delhi - 110 014. Price Rs.45/-

Rahul : Gautham, do you know I was born on a very special occasion?

Gautham : Really? was it the Republic day or New Year day or...

Rahul : None of those! It was my birthday!

- M.V. Cindhu, Chennai.

V. GAYATHRI,
Std. V B, St. Columbans
A.I.H.S.S., Chennai.

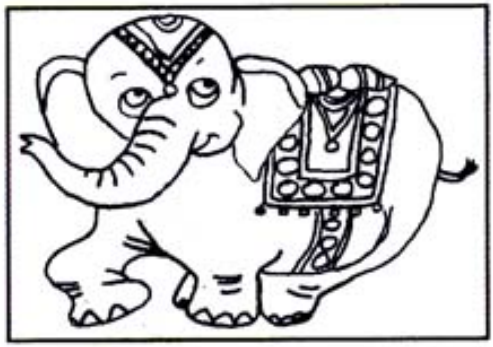
CHRYSEL LOBO,
Std. V, Ladyhill English Higher
Primary School, Mangalore.

S. SIVARANJANI,
Std. V A, K.V., I.I.T.,
Chennai.

RUBY JOSEPH,
Std. IX, S.I.W.S High School,
Wadala, Mumbai.

V. SUSHIL KUMAR,
Std. VI A, Timpany Senior Secondary School, C.B.M. Compound, Vishakhapatnam.

PREETI - J - NAMBIAR,
Std. IX C, K.V., Kannur, Kerala.



V. SRIVATSAN,
Age 14, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai.

S. SOORYA PRAKASH,
Std. II A, D.A.V. Matric Hr. Sec. School, Mogappair, Chennai.

GOKULAM
Art Gallery

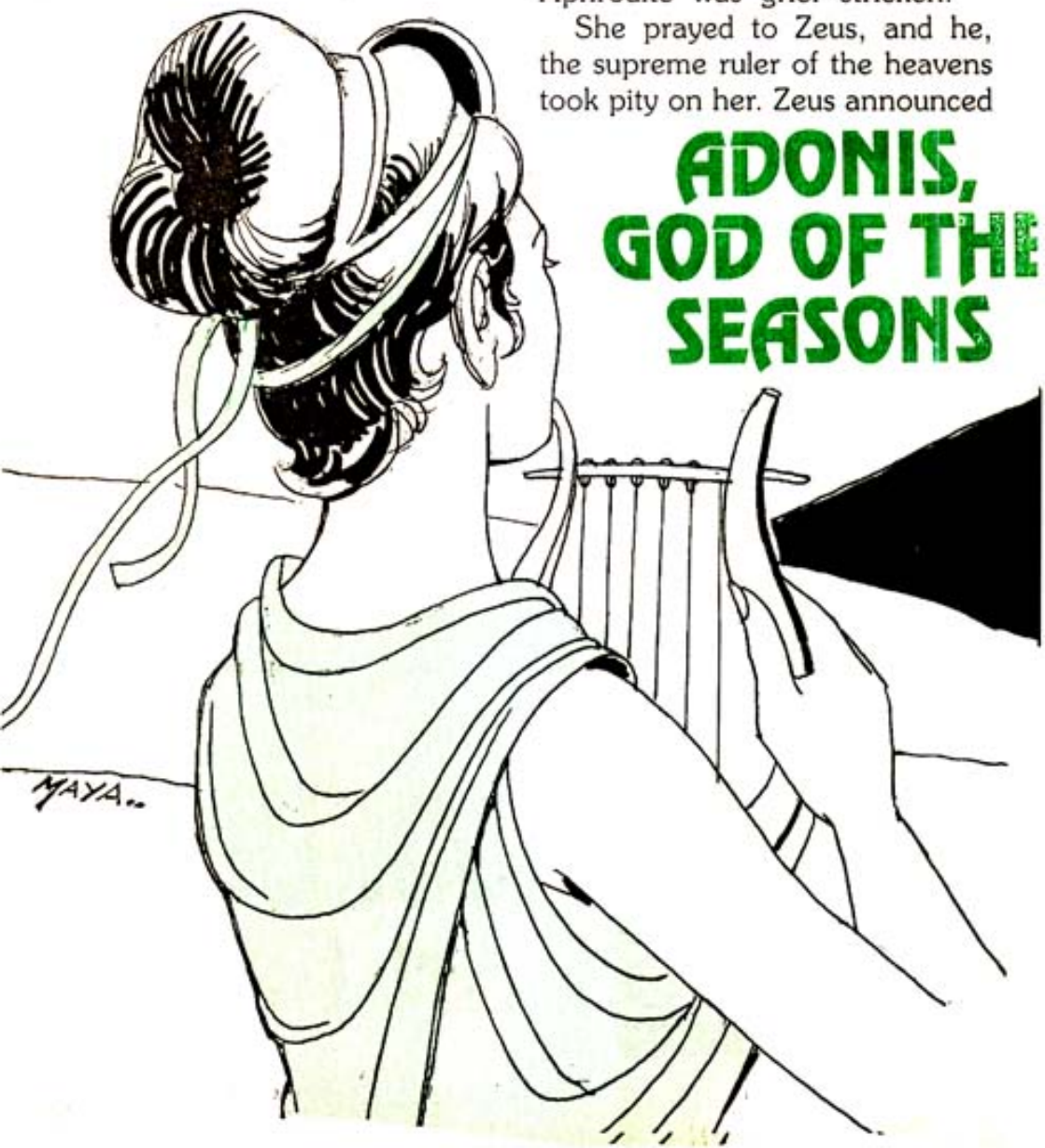
ADONIS, GOD OF THE SEASONS

Adonis was a very hand some young man. He grew up living in the country side, with total freedom. He was so beautiful, that the whole country side lit up when he walked or roamed in the hills and valleys. Flowers bloomed, leaves unfurled and the surroundings reflected his glowing beauty.

Naturally Aphrodite the goddess of love and beauty fell in love with him. Adonis too reciprocated her love.

One day it so happened that Adonis was attacked by a wild boar, fiercely. Adonis was mortally wounded and killed. He had to move on to the underworld, the kingdom of the dead. Aphrodite was grief stricken.

She prayed to Zeus, and he, the supreme ruler of the heavens took pity on her. Zeus announced

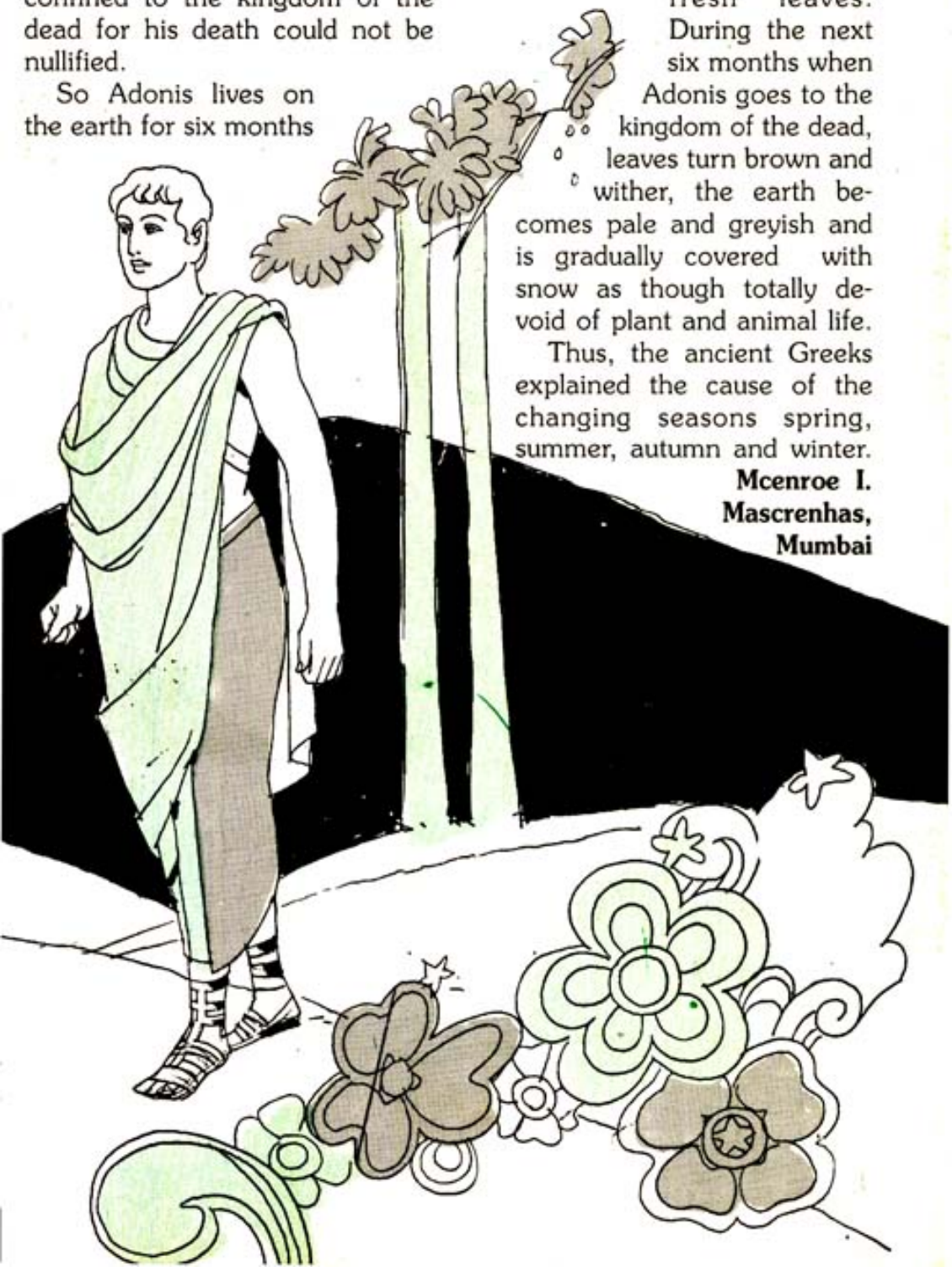


that Adonis could leave the underworld and return to earth for six months of the year. But for the next six months he would be confined to the kingdom of the dead for his death could not be nullified.

So Adonis lives on the earth for six months only to this day and whenever he arrives, plants spring to life, flowers bloom, and the barren trees become green once again with fresh leaves. During the next six months when Adonis goes to the kingdom of the dead, leaves turn brown and wither, the earth becomes pale and greyish and is gradually covered with snow as though totally devoid of plant and animal life.

Thus, the ancient Greeks explained the cause of the changing seasons spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Mcenroe I. Mascrenhas, Mumbai



APPU & KUKU IN LIFE GIVER

STORY AND PICTURES J. DISNEY

KUKU, PLEASE DON'T COME HERE.

WHY? WHAT ARE YOU PAINTING?

I AM DRAWING THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE FOREST. GUESS WHAT IT IS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE DRAWING A SELF PORTRAIT!

NO

IS IT A LION, OR A TIGER?

NO!

IT GIVES US FOOD, AND CLEANS THE AIR WE BREATHE. IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR RAIN FALL. WITHOUT IT LIFE ON EARTH WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
ARE YOU DRAWING A PICTURE OF GOD?
THIS IS WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!
A TREE!
WE MUST ALL TRY TO PROTECT THEM, AS THEY ARE THE LIFE GIVERS OF THIS PLANET.
I NEVER REALISED A TREE WAS SO IMPORTANT.
LET US ALL PLANT ATLEAST ONE TREE THIS SUMMER.

LAUGH YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH

BULL'S EYE!

Teacher : Raju, if one apple costs, twenty five paise, how many apples can you buy for five rupees?

Raju : If I had five rupees, I would rather buy a catapult instead of apples!

SUNDAY SPECIAL!

"What is the time in your watch...?"

"Time ... er... today being a Sunday my watch is on leave!"

HI JOKED!

Hijacker : Pilot! Take this plane to Paris...

Pilot : No problem, this scheduled flight itself is for Paris!

Hijacker : Dammit, I must have boarded the wrong plane!

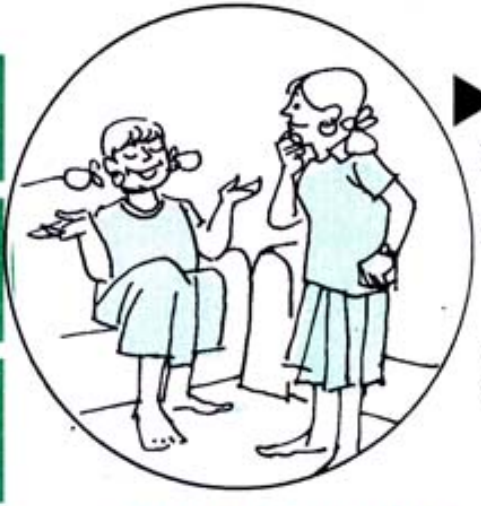
OLD IS NOT GOLD!

"How old are you child?"

"Can't you see? I am not old! I'm very young!"

- J. Sowkya, Std. VII A, Avila Convent M.H.S.S., Coimbatore.

JOKES PAGE



COAT HANGER!

Rani : What would you like to become when you are older?

Vani : I haven't decided, but I will never become a doctor or lawyer...

Rani : Why?

Vani : Because the beautiful sarees that I wear will be covered by either a white coat or a black coat!

MUSEUM MUSINGS!

"Whose skull is that big one?"

"It's that of Newton."

"Surely it must find a place in this museum; but whose skull is that small one?"

"Oh! That's the skull of Newton when he was a boy!"

PRICKLY MEMORY

Pickpocket : Doctor! My memory power is declining day by day...

Doctor : How did you come to that conclusion?

Pickpocket : Now a days I am picking my own pocket!

MIX UP!

Doctor : Take one spoon of this medicine add three spoons of water and swallow it.

Patient : But I have only one spoon, Sir!

Ramya Joshi, Std. IX B, Defence Lab's School, Hyderabad.

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COOL off this SUMMER

BUDDING CHEF

CUCUMBER SALAD

You need : Sliced cucumber, coriander leaves, lemon, salt and pepper.

Method : Take a sliced cucumber and spread coriander leaves over it. Squeeze lemon drops, add a whiff of salt and pepper. Cover with another sliced cucumber. Prepare several such pieces and serve in a china dish.

- M.K. Dhaval, Std. VIII A, D.M.S., Mysore

SWEET RAGI BALLS

You need :

Ragi - roasted and powdered coarsely - 1 cup
Grated jaggery - half a cup
Grated coconut - 2 table spoons
Ghee - 1 teaspoon
Cardamom powder - ¼ teaspoon
Warm water for mixing

Method : Mix all the ingredients together and shape into round balls. Serve as afternoon snack. It is not only tasty but very nutritious.

- K. Sindhu, IX 'B' Sadvidya High School, Mysore

COCO-COOLER

You need :

5 Fresh dates
Finely grated coconut
2 Cardamoms (powdered)
Cream of milk (saaz)
1 teaspoon honey
Finely chopped almond

Method : Pour some water in a mixie, add the dates after removing the seeds, blend with five tablespoons of grated coconut and cream of milk. After blending well in the mixie, pour in a tall glass and add a few drops of honey on top. Garnish with chopped almond and powdered cardamom. Serve chilled.

Wow! What a refreshing drink!

- S. Srinivas Bhaskar, Std. VIII C, K.V. No.1, Uppal, Hyderabad

HELLO, Doctor!

• **A. Aranganathan, Cochin**

? What is Laser? How is it used in the treatment of eye problems?

Can I Donate BLOOD?

! Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. A laser is a device that delivers an intense beam of very pure light of a fixed wavelength. Different types of lasers are used in medicine. Each one is named according to the element used to produce the light such as Argon, Krypton, Carbondioxide etc. The most common laser used by ophthalmologists is Argon laser. Medical lasers consist of a gas-filled tube. When an electric current is passed through it, the gas molecules become agitated and are reflected back and forth between two mirrors. The radiation builds up and it is amplified in intensity. Now it escapes in a controlled beam through an exit in one of the mirrors. All the radiated light thus produced has tremendous strength.

This intense light energy is converted into heat when absorbed by certain pigments or water in our body tissues. This heat is used to seal leaking blood vessels and to cut or vapourise dangerous tissues like tumour. Coagulating lasers are used for treating serious eye problems like retinal diseases suffered by long term diabetics. Excimer laser is used to cure myopia (short-sightedness) and glaucoma (increased tension in the eyes.) The Laser

treatment is simple, safe, painless and bloodless. No hospital stay is required for this treatment.

• **L. Ravi Narayanan, Chennai - 60**

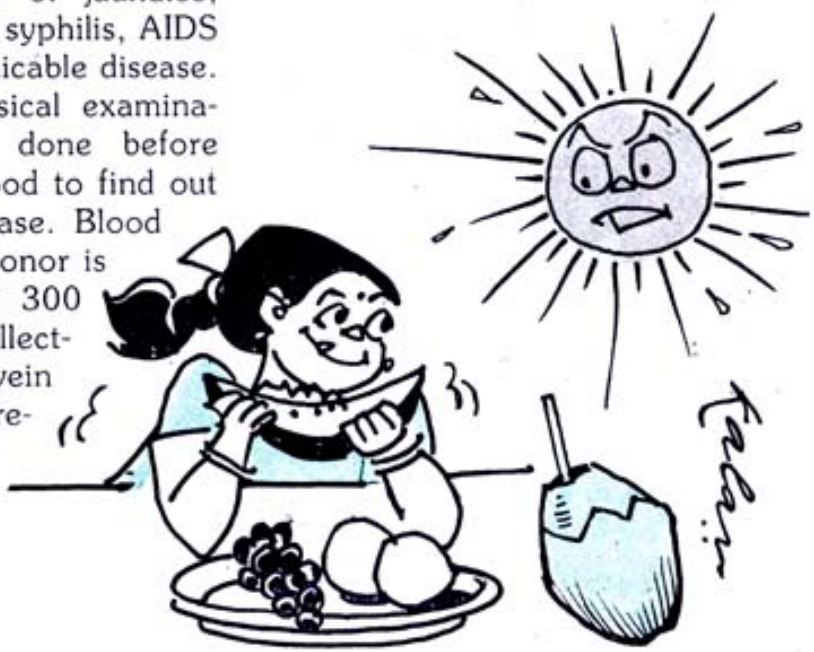
? I am a 16 year old boy. Can I donate blood?

! Any adult between the age of 17 to 55 years can donate blood. The donor should be healthy and should weigh above 45 kgs. The donor should give a detailed account of any illness that he or she suffered in the past, particularly of jaundice, typhoid, malaria, syphilis, AIDS or other communicable disease. A complete physical examination should be done before accepting the blood to find out any obvious disease. Blood pressure of the donor is taken and about 300 cc of blood is collected from his arm vein in a specially prepared bottle which has a solution called ACD to prevent blood clotting. There should be a minimum three month interval between blood donations. Dear Ravi, you have to wait for one more year to donate your blood.

• **M.K. Dhaval, Mysore - 6**

? What is hay fever?

! It is a seasonal allergic condition called allergic rhinitis stimulated by pollens from trees, grass, flowers or weeds. The victim has inflammation of nasal passages, associated with profuse watery nasal discharge, sneezing, nasal obstruction and itching of the nose and eyes. The treatment includes the local, systemic or topical administration of antihistamines and avoidance of allergens which cause the prob-



lem for the individual.

• Lilly Pushpam, Erode

? What is the remedy for prickly heat?

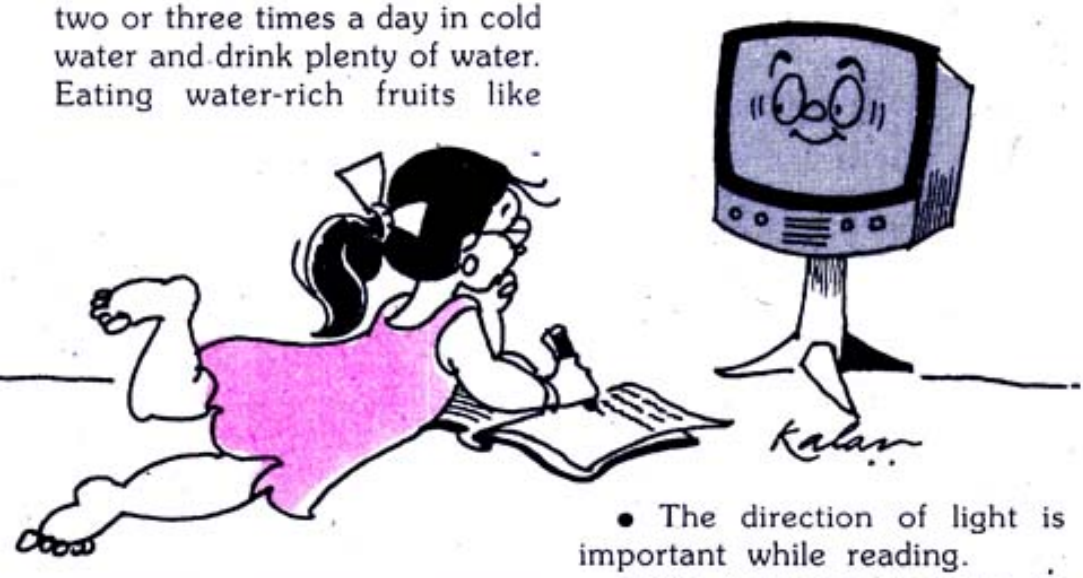
! During the hot months of summer many people who perspire a lot have small rash-like boils on their body. These are called prickly heat or summer boils. Prickly heat causes itching and burning. This may lead to infection and boils may erupt at some places. To avoid prickly heat, it is advisable to bathe two or three times a day in cold water and drink plenty of water. Eating water-rich fruits like watermelon, oranges and grapes could also help. Any good antiseptic powder can be applied over the boils. One should avoid going out in the hot sun.

• G. Jayshree, Mangalore

? I am studying in tenth standard. I am suffering from myopia. Please suggest some exercises to correct it.

! Myopia is due to genetic factors and improper reading habits. It can be corrected with proper spectacle or laser treatment. There is no exercise to correct it. Consult your family doctor or an eye specialist immediately. You can strictly follow the following tips to avoid further increase in the power of your spectacle.

• Do not read while lying down.



• The direction of light is important while reading.

• The light should always be focused from behind.

• The light should not be dim.

• Never read in a moving vehicle.

• Avoid watching T.V. for prolonged periods of time.

• Check your eyes every year for refractory error.

Dr.G.Ganesan, Rajapalayam

ANSWERS PAGE

GIGGLE RIDDLES

1. Because all his business is net profit!
2. Your breath!
3. Absence of body!
4. It does not eat enough!
5. The same as you are now!
6. Baby, because it was little Bigger!
7. Because there is never any change in it!
8. "Are you asleep?"
9. Only once; because any later subtraction would be from a smaller number.
10. Because it has a tender behind!
11. Because instead of going to the buyer, it goes to the seller (celler).
12. Because they travel in schools.
13. Because he had grown another foot!
14. You can shut up a book!
15. The sun rose and the wind blue (blew).

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY...

1. Hebe
2. Sirens
3. Nemesis
4. Apollo.

UNUSUAL PARA

It is a meaningful paragraph without the alphabet 'E', which is an important vowel!

AUTHORS AND THEIR BOOKS

1 - b, 2 - e, 3 - g, 4 - c, 5 - f, 6 - a, 7 - h, 8 - d.

COUNTRIES IN HIDING!

L	C	E	T	P	N	S	T
I	H	C	N	E	P	A	L
B	I	H	E	R	E	I	N
R	L	B	H	U	T	A	N
A	E	K	A	J	J	Z	A
Z	A	M	B	I	A	K	B
I	H	S	T	A	P	N	S
L	S	Y	R	I	A	S	P
W	X	A	Z	T	N	L	A
I	A	N	D	A	N	I	I
R	I	A	E	L	G	C	N
U	A	G	E	Y	M	Y	N

BIRBAL STORY

Once Emperor Akbar received a letter from the King of Lanka:

"We understand that Birbal of your court has succeeded in cultivating radishes which move from one place to another. Can you send us a sample of such mobile radishes?"

Akbar was perplexed on reading this letter. He knew immediately that the king of Lanka was throwing a challenge to Birbal and through him to Emperor Akbar himself.

Akbar decided that the letter would be read out aloud in court. All the courtiers laughed on hearing it. "Mobile radishes? The King of Lanka must be joking or he is a fool" they commented, obviously to please Akbar.

But Akbar was not happy. "Come on Birbal! What have you to say about this?" he demanded.

"My Lord," Birbal replied, "the king of Lanka is not a fool. He is testing our

intelligence. Mobile radishes can be grown. But it requires some time. Send word that mobile radishes will be sent to him in a couple of months."

Akbar did so, since he had full confidence in Birbal.

MOBILE RADISHES!

On reaching home that evening, Birbal attached four wooden boards to a bullock cart, so that the cart now looked like a huge box, with wheels. He then bought some fertile soil and filled the box cart to the brim. Adding some fertilisers and giving the soil a good mix was the next step. He then sowed radish seeds and watered the top soil.

After a few days small radish plants grew in the cart. Birbal tended them carefully for a couple of more days.

He then told Emperor Akbar that the mobile radishes were ready and could be sent to the king of Lanka.

When the Emperor wanted to see the mobile radishes before shipping them, Birbal yoked bullocks to the cart and drove the cart to the palace court yard.

Akbar was delighted with the ingenuity of Birbal and rewarded him.

"The radishes can be tended carefully during transport and by the time the box cart reaches Lanka, they would have swelled and become succulent" said Birbal.

Akbar asked the messengers to carry out the instructions. After some time Emperor Akbar received a note of thanks from the king of Lanka together with costly gifts for Birbal.

- Swati G. Saundathi, Std.XB, St. Joseph's Convent H.S., Belgaum.

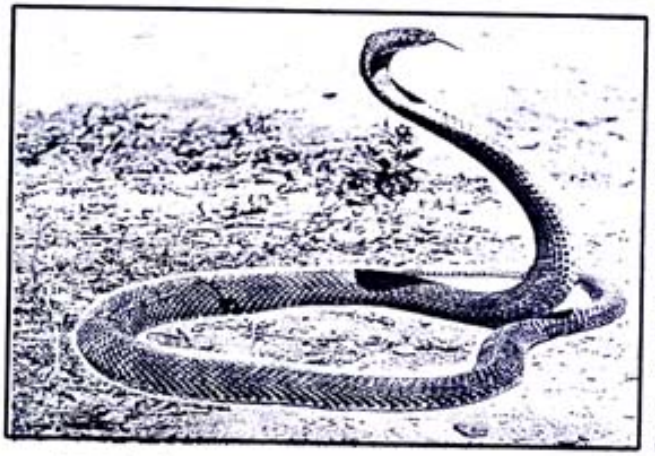
All animals including humans shed old skin which then gets replaced by new skin. We humans do this in very small bits and pieces that is invisible to ourselves. But shedding of skin is most dramatic in snakes. Since snakes slither along the ground, their skin gets worn out very fast. So the snake replaces it's skin periodically. How does it do it?

First a new skin forms under the old. When fully formed, a fluid is secreted to prevent the two skins from fusing with each other. Some of this fluid even gets into the eyes of the snake making it temporarily blind for a few days. At such times a snake will hide to be safe. The snake then rubs it's head on the ground to help it's skin split, starting at the lips. The old skin is shed inside out as the snake shrugs it off, and wriggles out through the tear.

Why can't human beings fly like birds?

The simple answer would be, "because we don't have wings!" But the fact is that even if we

WHY DO SNAKES SHED THEIR SKIN?



had wings we wouldn't be able to fly. This is because the human body is not built for flying. A bird has light bones, powerful muscles and a stream lined body to help it fly. If humans were to fly, they would need huge wings. The muscles of the human body are not strong enough to support wings of that size.

- T.D. Kalyanram, Age 12, S.F.S. School, Visakhapatanam.

Bravo, Laxman!

GOKULAM
POSTER
Photo:K.V.Srinivasan

TIME: The Greatest

Time and tide wait for no man. No power on earth can call back yesterday. Time is the greatest treasure. It is also the most wasted!

We have to make best use of time and fill it with maximum work. Some people think that work is a curse and that they will be happy if they had nothing to do. This is a foolish conclusion. To work is heavenly and to remain idle is hell.

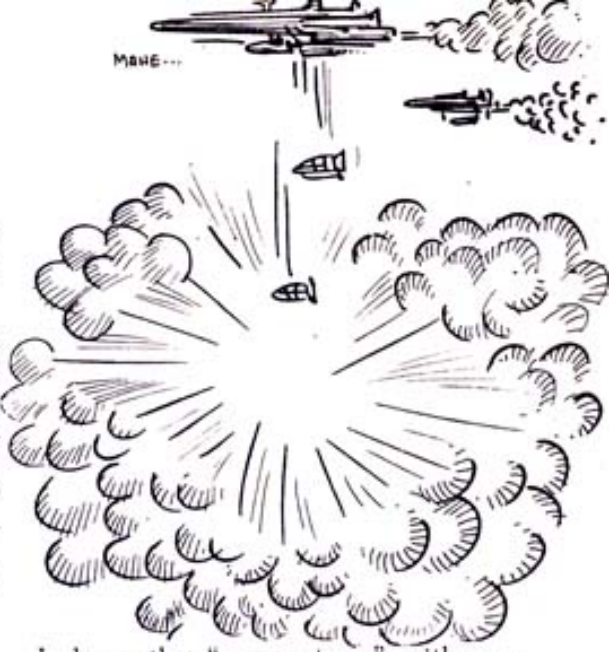
Health and happiness come only from work and never from laziness. Happiness comes out of achievement - of having completed your work. A happy man is also a healthy person. A person who is absorbed in work has no time for petty worries and doesn't feel miserable.

A clever person knows how to utilise time to maximum advantage. He listens well in classes and absorbs as much as possible. Students who day dream in class, lose precious time. They have to spend time again studying, to make up for the loss.

Non stop work is the law of nature. Just think what will happen if the earth stops rotating for even a single minute! It will be disaster. Nothing in nature is at standstill.

Let us remember, the only loss that can never be compensated is time.

- M. Arunesh Mayanka,
Std. VI, C.S.T., Darjeeling



Treasure!

LOVE YOUR MOTHERLAND

Patriotism is the love of one's motherland. It is one of the noblest feelings of mankind.

We must remember that whatever is done in the name of one's country need not be correct. The country is ruled by a group of people and sometimes they go wrong. The attitude "my country - right or wrong" is a narrow one, arising out of blind faith. Selfish leaders have often exploited the passion of patriotism for their own benefit, resulting in aggression and war. People suffer during war directly and indirectly on account of economic collapse.

Our motherland is India. She is not just a mass of land. She stands for our national aims and age old culture. It is a combination of high ideals of morality, way of life, beliefs and philosophy. Our duty is to protect India, and safeguard Indian culture. No sacrifice is too great in the service of our motherland.

- Deepika Khanwadia, Std. IX C, A.E.C.S., Tarapur.

NINE GEMS

I found the following quotable quotes very interesting and also very practical. They can be followed with a little amount of determination. So I share the "navaratnas" with my dear friends - Gokulam readers :

1. It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness.
2. Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.
3. It is by acts and not by ideas that people live.
4. Things don't turn up in this world until somebody turns them up.
5. A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.
6. The only way to get rid of responsibilities is to discharge them.
7. It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it.
8. Great minds have purpose; others have wishes.
9. You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time, you must make it.

- M. Krithika, Std. VII A, L.M.D.S.S.School, Chennai.

GRANDMA WORM

Earlier I used to complete my homework in the afternoon itself. But now I am in no mood to do so. The result is when I go to bed at night it is already 11 : 30, and I get up late! Please tell me what to do.

- Sahana, Mangalore

NO MOOD FOR HOMEWORK!

Dear Sahana,

I feel that you must have commenced your homework immediately after your return from school. Am I right ? No wonder you got bored after sometime. On returning home from school, have some light tiffin and relax for sometime watching T.V. or playing. Once your mind is diverted for about an hour or less, you will find the mood for doing homework returning to you. You can study for two hours or more and then have dinner and go to bed early. Good luck.

Although I work very hard I don't get more than 70% in physics. Please help me.

-Neelima Chakraborty, Bagdogra, W.B.

Dear Neelima,

Seventy percent is not bad at all. It is proof that you like physics and that with a little help you will understand it much better and score higher marks. Ask your elders at home to help you. If there is no one to help you at home ask your physics teacher - politely. Don't go to her / him with a big bunch of

doubts. One or two doubts at a time on alternate days will fetch good response from your teacher. You will then write to me thanking me, profusely!

I do not watch T.V. I help my parents to keep the house clean and tidy. I also get the first rank at school. Yet my mother worries about me. She does not allow me to play and keeps on asking me to study. Please help.

- Shruti Subramanian, Thane (w)

Dear Shruti,

I think your mother worries about you too much only because she loves you. She's afraid that if she neglects you, you may not study as hard. She cannot tolerate the idea

of your scoring less than the marks you are getting now. This is because she wants you to have a bright future. Since you are already studying well, you must convince her that she need not worry about you. Talk to her gently, first about the subjects she likes most. Be a friend to her. Ask her if she has any problems or dreams of the future, and if you can be of any help. After sometime it will be easy for you to share your thoughts and problems with her. Both of you will understand each other better and there won't be any irritation. Only love and affection will reign.

I love reading a lot of books. But my parents can't afford to buy costly books. There is no library near my house. Please help me.

- P. Ashwin, Chennai.

Dear Ashwin,

If there is no library in your area the only alternative is to start one. Your parents may not be able to buy costly books. But they can help you to read books on a sharing basis which will cost them much less. Consult your friends. Talk to their parents. Start a book club. Keep a register of books you buy. Lend it to the subscribers of the library. See to it that the books are returned safely. Someone in the neighbourhood must be kind enough to provide your library with an almirah to store the books. Once the library starts functioning you may even receive donations. Remember to keep upto date and correct accounts. Only then will you be able to convince people around you. Summer vacation is the best time to start the lending library.

I sometimes become over confident and lose marks. What am I to do?

- Komal Mirlekar, Chiplun

Dear Komal,

There is no excuse for over confidence. If you become over confident and neglect your studies it is negligence or even arrogance. Even the first rank student has to keep on revising till the eve of the examination.

Confidence is okay but over confidence is not a good quality. Shed it now and start studying in all earnestness. There is a saying in Tamil which you will do well to remember : "What you have learnt is akin to a fist full of sand; What remains to be learnt is as large as the world itself!"

Love,
Grandma worm

The Vajpayee government seems to be caught in a mire of scandals. First, it was the Tehelka tapes, then the share market scam followed by the excise scam. Tehelka is a web site which arranged a drama to be enacted to tempt politicians and bureaucrats. The B.J.P. party chief (since resigned) Bangaru Lakshman fell easy prey and the video recordings show him accepting, verifying and stashing away a bundle of currency notes. Besides him, other politicians and government officials have also accepted money promising in return defence contracts. Many have even bragged about their

• Bangaru Lakshman

THE LUR

proximity to top personalities in power.

The Tehelka tapes though only a stage managed affair, clearly show how people in important positions fall a prey to the lure of money. It also proves that defence contracts can be obtained by

• Clinton

bribery which is a very dangerous situation for our country. The claim by Bangaru Lakshman, that he took money only as a donation to the party will not hold good for he promises to do something in return, which is nothing but pure and simple corruption.

There is a ray of light amidst this gloom. The N.D.A. government at the centre has taken steps to enquire and act not only in the Tehelka scam, but also in the share market and excise scams. A code of conduct for party personalities is also being drawn up.

Following the above revelations Vincent George, secretary to Sonia Gandhi, has been accused of possessing wealth beyond the known sources of his income. The C.B.I. has alleged that he has property and cash amounting to several crores. In another shocking video taped true story of corruption the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief is shown accepting a bundle of currency notes.

OF Money

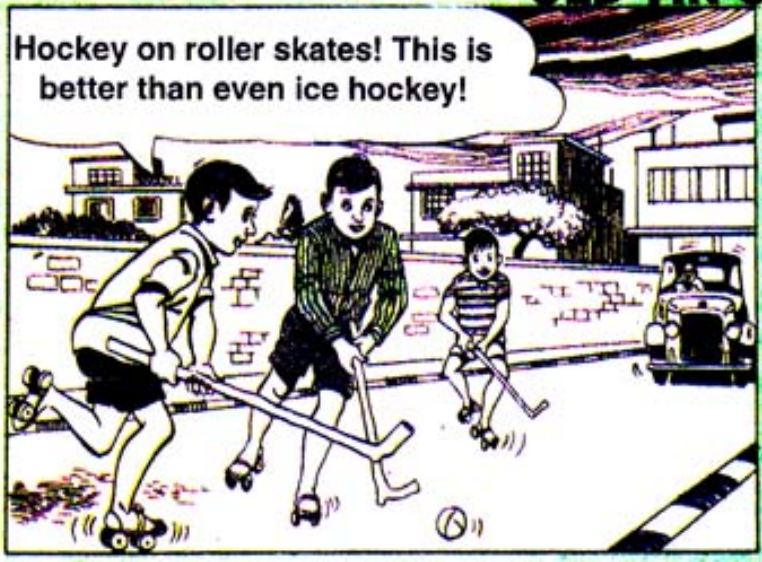
All of which goes to show that whichever party is in power, the leaders can be purchased for a price big or small according to their status! The only hope lies in evolving a policy by which there will be less and less of government controls and more and more of transparency in the functioning of the government. The public who are really the masters of this country should not allow themselves to be taken for a ride. Eternal vigilance should be their watch word.

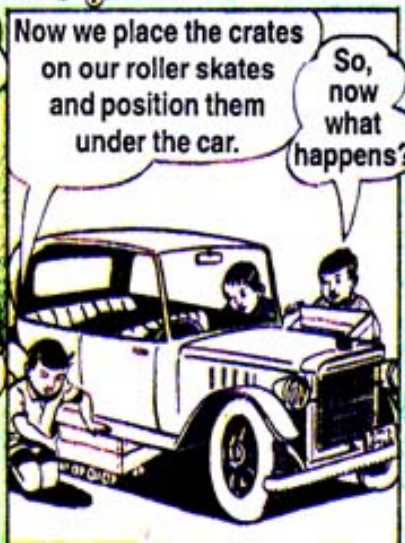
Former U.S. President Clinton arrived in India, to study the devastation caused by the earthquake in Gujarat and to decide on how the millions of dollars of aid earmarked for relief can be best utilised. We know by past experience that just alloting funds for drought or flood affected areas results only in the unscrupulous becoming rich by swindling the poor people of the money that should really reach them. Perhaps Clinton too is aware of this and has come to study the situation for himself. Let us hope that the aid will be in concrete form like quake proof houses, good roads leading to them etc., instead of cash doles which is sure to be siphoned off or frittered away by the beneficiaries.

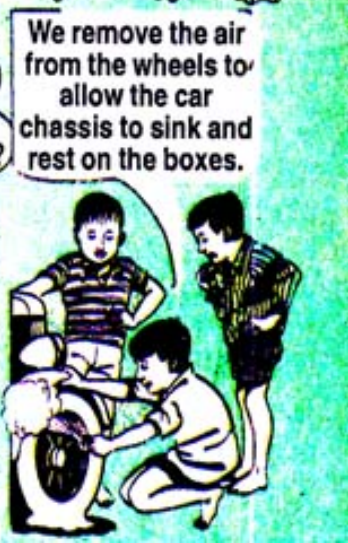
BALU THE BULLY

Story : Kausikan

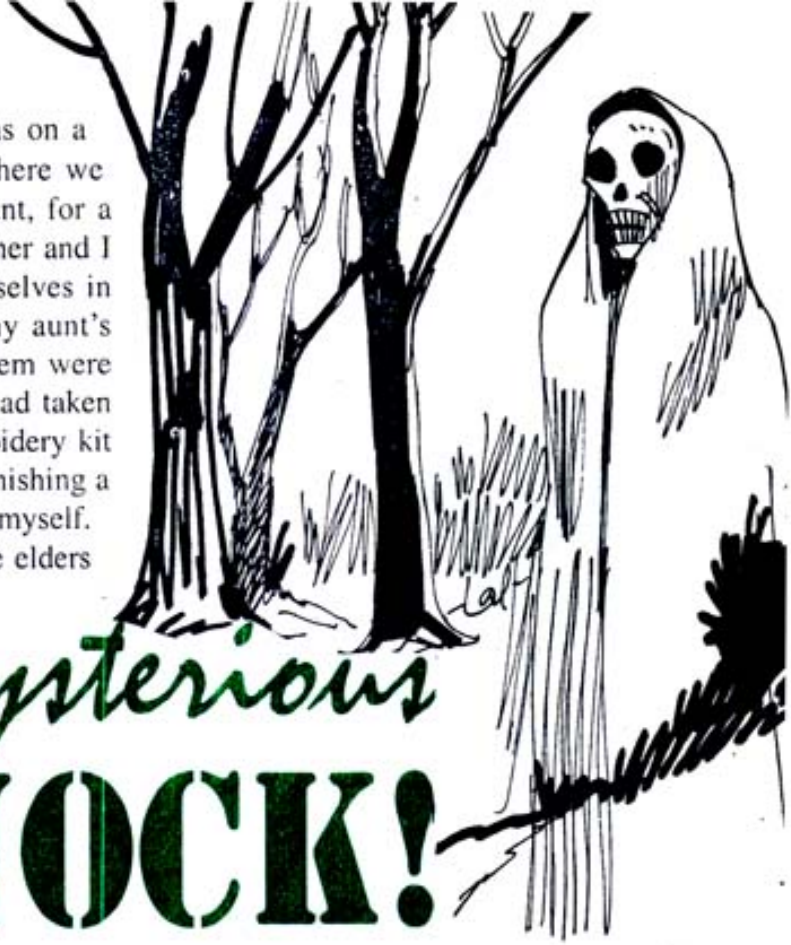
Illustration : Chellam







Now we push the car easily away from our street. Once we get rid of old tin can we can resume our game.
Old tin can is out of our way. But how do we retrive our skates?
Yes... How...? Am I stumped? Never! Get me a lengthy thick coil of rope...
Please Sir... Will you help me pull this rope?
Sure! always ready to help.
Thank you, Sirs! Please hold on till I tie a knot in this fence.
No more problems with old tin can!
That kill joy deserves this.
Oh God! My car!



A Mysterious KNOCK!

Our family was on a trip to Mumbai where we stayed with our aunt, for a few days. My brother and I were enjoying ourselves in the company of my aunt's children. All of them were younger to me. I had taken with me my embroidery kit and was keen on finishing a project I had set for myself.

One evening the elders had to go out and they left me incharge of the other children. My aunt asked me to lock the front door and also cautioned me about the power cut. Being very busy with my embroidery I did not listen to her properly.

Promptly at 7.30 the lights went off, and being the eldest I advised the other children not to panic and went in search of a matchbox and candle. I managed to find them and soon there was some light, but the shadows too deepened and the gloom was more pronounced!

Exactly at this moment there was a knock at the front door, and some one was shouting for us to open it. I remembered my aunt cautioning me and felt terrified. I gathered the children around me and kept quiet, hoping the intruder would go away. Visions of a ghost sent a shiver through my spine. The banging continued for some time and then ceased, but our fright did not.

Mercifully the power was restored after about half an hour and we were some what relieved. When the elders arrived they were surprised to see us at home. "Why didn't you open the door to Lakshmi aunty?" my aunt asked me. "I had asked her to take you all to her house when the lights go off. I had also informed you about the plan. Didn't you listen?"

Only then did I realise that the knock was by the lady living opposite. I had

* Banging on the door and visions of a ghost...

ıot listened to aunty's instruction, since . was absorbed in my embroidery! The ɛlders had gone to the opposite house 'irst and then come here in panic, after ıearing what the lady living there had o say.

I profusely apologised to aunty and rom that day onwards I always give a ,ood hearing to whoever talks to me.

- R. Pavithra, Std. VIII B,
M.G.Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy.

Hail storm in Saudi Arabia!

I live in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. One evening while I was watching T.V., I suddenly heard noises which I thought came from the air conditioner. I found it very strange. It took me a few seconds to realise that the noise came from outside, penetrating the window panes and was perhaps due to a sand storm striking at the glass. Since I was living in a flat, I was not sure whether it was a thunder storm, hail storm or a sleet storm. So I went to the balcony and found that there was a thunder storm as well as a hail storm. Having never seen anything like it before, I went inside and called everyone to come and see the hail storm. No one believed me at first. But when they really saw what was happening they were flabbergasted. We all came back inside, put on our rain coats and gloves and went back to the balcony. We tried to catch some hail. Although all of us caught some, most of it melted immediately, leaving our hands freezing. When the hail storm intensified we all rushed inside and watched the spectacular sight through the glass window.

- R. Thirucumaran,
Std. VI, Bangladesh I. School,
Dhahran, K.S.A.

RADHA AND

On a rainy day when we couldn't go out to play, we gathered around grandma and asked her to tell a story. "I will tell you a story which I heard from my grandma, when I was a little girl like you" began grandma and she narrated the following story...

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Radha in the village of Rampur. She was the most beautiful girl in the village with curly hair and lovely eyes. She was courageous too. The only sad thing about her was that she had lost her parents early. But Ghanshyamdas, her uncle, with whom she lived, and her aunt, looked after her very well and she never felt orphaned.

The villagers lived happily until one day when a giant came to reside in the hill near the village. One evening he came down the hill to the border of the village and told the terrified villagers that he would not harm them if one boy or girl was sent to him every day to satisfy his appetite. If not, he would attack and eat the villagers indiscriminately according to his own sweet will and pleasure!

The villagers gathered under the banyan tree and discussed the matter. Ramu kaka the leader of the village advised everyone to accept the condition laid down by the giant. All the villagers agreed, but when it came to the basic question of sending a boy or girl as food for the giant, every

parent started crying and asked Ramu kaka to please find some one else! No one was willing to sacrifice their own child!

Seeing the predicament in which Ramu kaka and the villagers had landed themselves, Radha stood up and took one step forward. "What is it, my child?" asked Ramu kaka kindly.

"Send me to the giant first" said Radha. "It will solve your problem for atleast one day. Thereafter, others too will gather courage and follow my example."

"Oh no!" cried Ghanshyamdas and his wife, "We won't let you go! We promised your mother in her death bed that we will look after you."

But Radha was firm, and took leave of her weeping foster parents. Ramu kaka patted her and bid her good bye, with a lump in his throat.

THE GIANT

When the giant saw Radha climbing the hill, to sacrifice herself for the sake of others, he smacked his lips and picked her up.

"Wait" said Radha, in a commanding voice which startled the giant. Radha continued: "You must first pass an intelligence test before you eat me!"

"Why should I?" asked the giant.

"Because I am a smart girl and if you are not equally smart, you can't digest me properly and you will become sick!"

"I am smart enough for you" said the giant, vain gloriously.

"Then put me down and answer a simple question to prove your intelligence" said Radha and the giant placed her on the ground rather reluctantly. He was

a bit worried about indigestion.

Radha took two small bags from the pocket of her frock and held them in both palms. "One of these bags contains black pebbles and the other white pebbles. Tell me, which bag contains white pebbles?" she asked.

The giant after some hesitation pointed to one and Radha opened the bag and poured black pebbles on the ground in front of him.

The giant groaned with disappointment and said, "So you are clever and eating you will not agree with me; but you can go back and send someone else."

"I am the least clever of all the children in this village" said Radha, "everyone else is more intelligent than me and you will have a terrible time if you eat them!"

The giant looked at her with wide eyes and terrified of eating the children of that village and worried about starving to death if he did not, he turned around and stomped away with a big grunt to find some other way of filling his hungry big belly.

Radha returned to the village to the surprise of every one and narrated all that had happened in the hill.

The villagers danced around Radha with immense joy for having rid of the giant, and gave her lots of presents.

"But if only the giant had chosen the right bag..." said Ghanshyamdas with a slight shiver, "we would have lost you! What a great risk you took!"

"There was no risk" smiled Radha. "I had only black pebbles in both the bags! The foolish giant would have never guessed!"

Radha's foster parents were stunned to silence for a few seconds and then all three of them broke into hearty laughter, which seemed would never end!

- Neelima Chakraberty, Std. X, St. Joseph's H.S., Mahgara (W.B.)

✉ Every one in our family loves to read Gokulam. My four year old sister loves to hear me read Gokulam aloud to her. How do we subscribe to Gokulam from a foreign country?

- Janani Yasotharan, Toronto.

Please read the imprint section in the last page of Gokulam. You will find foreign subscription details. Ask your dad to approach his bank, to give a demand draft favouring Gokulam, for the amount and send it to us with your address.

- Editor

✉ I've been reading Gokulam since six months in our school library. I found it so interesting that I wanted copies of my own to be preserved and so I asked my father to subscribe. Now I am a proud subscriber to Gokulam.

- Sai Deepak, Std. III, Saikor E.M.S., Korukonda

✉ Mrs. Y.G. Parthasarathy's tips for facing exams boldly was published at the right time. The article "Get lost in Singapore" was very interesting. I like "Undir stories" very much, I eagerly look forward to every issue. So do my parents! Gokulam is really a treasure!

- R. Nethra, Std. VIII A, St. Joseph's M.H.S.S., Maduranthakam

✉ I love Gokulam for it gives lots of interesting information and spicy short stories in simple English which everyone can understand easily. School children who wish to improve their English should read Gokulam.

- S. Mukunthan, Std. XII, St. Michael's College National School, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

✉ I am thrilled to see my drawing published in the Art Gallery section of March issue. I have received the remuneration and also the participation certificate. But my name is printed wrongly.

- Tejashree Soukoor, Mumbai.

If contributors write their names and addresses neatly in capital letters, there will not be any errors in printing.

- Editor

✉ I have a large collection of Gokulam issues and I enjoy reading back issues once again! Can I also send stories for publication?

- M. Prajna Shenoy, Std. VII A, Canara Girls H.S., Mangalore

Any reader of Gokulam can send his / her contribution to us for consideration and possible publication. If they wish to get back rejected manuscripts, they should send along with their contribution a self addressed stamped envelope.

- Editor

May, as you known is the hottest month of the year and it is going to become hotter still, as a result of the war of words between contestants in the elections. People in several states are voting to elect their representatives for the state assemblies. Some amount of physical violence too can be expected, including booth capturing!

HOTTING UP!

Existing alliances are breaking up and new alliances are being formed. Friends yesterday, foes today! May be friends again tomorrow! Such an attitude is common among children but that is born out of innoence whereas the regroupings among political parties is a result of unalloyed selfishness.

Money power is in the forefront. Tremendous amount of publicity and gathering of crowds to show off their strength are the scales by which money power of each party can be measured. Wooing of voters with false promises combined with slandering of the opposite party will go on till late in the night. Many parties want permission for the loud speakers to blare till midnight.

Worst of all is the bribing of voters. Votes are purchased and the uneducated poor, not knowing the value of their vote are prepared to sell. They are also tempted by gifts like vessels, ornaments or even food packets. Amidst all this din and malpractices the policies if any, of the parties get lost.

You may not have the right to vote today. But the day is not far off when you'll find your name in the voters list. You need not and should not get involved directly in politics as of now. Make education your top priority. All the same you must be aware of what is happening around you. Study the situation; hold honest discussions with your parents and close friends to find out the truth; and analyse the policies and real objective of the contesting parties. Form your own unbiased opinions.

Such an exercise will be of help to you in future. Remember, you children are tomorrow's India and India is your's.

- Editor

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